

THE BULLETIN

Belterra Community News

April 2010 Volume 4, Issue 4

News for the Residents of Belterra

Eight Water Safety Tips for a Safe Summer



We are dedicated to promoting drowning prevention and helping equip residents with the best tools to keep families safe in and around water.

1. Always have a pool gate around home pools. This includes having a locked and securely fastened gate that is not accessible to little ones.
2. Continuously educate children on water safety. This is a great thing to do at home, on the boat, at the pool, wherever there is water. Each time you are getting your little one ready for a swim session or water play, go over the

rules of water safety. Repetition is key with small children. Make sure your swim instructor incorporates a "Safety Lesson of the Week" into its lesson curriculum. This includes questions about water safety and how to avoid dangerous situations.

3. Designate a "Water Watcher." This is a responsible adult who sticks to alcohol-free beverages during swim time and who is in charge of keeping both eyes on the pool while it is in use. Or, better yet: consider renting a Lifeguard for your party or group event.

4. Remove all pool toys, floaters, ring buoys and other child-enticing items from the pool area when it is not in use. One wrong reach for that floating rubber ducky could be disaster.
5. Clear homes of common household items that can be dangerous to a curious toddler. It takes just 2 inches of water for a child to drown in a bucket. Put all mop buckets, dog dishes and coolers out of children's reach.
6. Never leave a young child in the pool or bathtub--even "just to get the phone."
7. Enroll your child in swim classes. Start lessons early. The longer a child has lessons the more they understand water safety. A great time to do this is in the spring! This way your kids are already prepped and ready to roll for the summer swim season. You'll want to find an inside heated pool and lesson times geared towards working families.
8. Supervise, Supervise, Supervise! Try to have your eyes on your children in and around the pool at all times. Adults should always be present when any child is in the pool area.

Let's help our kids love the water while also respecting it by being safe and well-trained at all levels.

SUBMITTED BY LYNN NEILLIE

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY911
Ambulance / Fire.....911

SCHOOLS

Dripping Springs ISD 512-858-3098
Dripping Springs Elementary 512-858-3700
Walnut Springs Elementary 512-858-3800
Rooster Springs Elementary..... 512-465-6200
Dripping Springs Middle School..... 512-858-3400
Dripping Springs High School 512-858-3100

UTILITIES

Water – WCID # 1 & 2 512-246-0498
Trash – Texas Disposal..... 512-246-0498
Gas – Texas Community Propane..... 512-272-5503
Electricity – Pedernales Electric 512-858-5611

OTHER

Oak Hill Post Office 512-892-2794
Animal Control..... 512-393-7896

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Divorce Care
Boundaries
Wounded Heart (Female Group for Sexual Abuse Victims)

Specialty Classes | Sundays 11:00 am

Re-married/Blended Families
Ladies Only and Men's Only Classes

Sunday Morning Schedule | 9:30 - Traditional Worship | 11:00 - Contemporary Worship | 9:30 & 11:00 - Bible Life Groups (all ages)
Great Hills Baptist Church | www.ghbc.org | 10500 Jollyville Road, Austin, Texas 78759 | 512.343.7763

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each month at www.PEELinc.com



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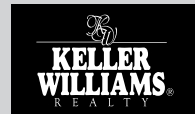
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Hey, everybody likes free software – just be careful what you get. Enter anything you want into a Google search with the word FREE and all kinds of things will show up. If you're not careful, you can download a FREE VIRUS – how's that for a deal?

For you readers, here are a few of my favorite free software choices that won't get you into trouble:

For Windows machines, I like Picasa for doing simple editing and cleanup of photos. It's from the folks at Google and you can find it just by going to www.Picasa.com (note that it's Picasa ending with an "a" and not Picasso like the painter with the additional "s"). Do you shop online and like to keep the receipts? Rather than printing them out and storing them in a filing cabinet, use CutePDF to "print" your receipts (or anything else that can be sent to a printer) into a PDF file that you can save on your hard drive. I buy a lot online and CutePDF lets me store all the receipts into a folder on my hard drive that makes life much easier at tax time for my accountant (which is this month if my calendar is correct.) You can download CutePDF at www.CutePDF.com, just download the CutePDF Writer. It installs as if it were a printer and you're ready to go.

For the Mac, Anxiety is a useful to-do list manager to (hopefully) reduce the stress in your life in getting all the things you need to get

done, done. It works with iCal and Mail. You can download it at <http://www.anxietyapp.com/>. Carbon Copy Cloner lets you backup your entire hard drive to another, allowing you to boot to the 2nd drive should the first one fail completely (and it happens more often than you know.) Download it at <http://www.bombich.com/>.

Stay away from sites offering free music or movies (like LimeWire), this is an excellent way to contract a virus. If you think you're getting something that costs money in a store for free online, it's probably going to cost you more than you know by the time you get your computer cleaned up.

Be skeptical and be safe. One of the best places to go for free software is <http://sourceforge.net/>. You're not going to find Microsoft Office for free, but you might find a program that does something close. Want Photoshop but don't have \$400 to spend, then check out Gimp. There are a lot of genuinely nice people developing programs because they enjoy doing it. Some will ask for but not require a donation, that's only fair. If you like a program, throw a few dollars their way to encourage them to keep improving their program. If you can say "I wish I had a program that", then you'll probably find something at SourceForge.net that meets your needs. - **Submitted by Laurie Scott**

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Wildflower Center Events In April

NATURE NIGHTS: BUTTERFLIES

Friday, April 2

Learn about these important Texas pollinators and the food they need through guided hikes, and butterfly identification, 6 to 9 p.m.

BOOK SIGNING - *Saturday, April 3*

Nathan Jensen signs his new children's book, *Rattlesnake Rules*, 1 to 3 p.m. and Jerry Wehrmund signs *Soil—More than Just Dirt*, 1 to 4 p.m.

SECOND ANNUAL WILDFLOWER CENTER

EGG HUNT - *Easter Sunday, April 4, Noon to 1 p.m.*

SPRING PLANT SALE & GARDENING FESTIVAL *April 9 - 11*

Members' Sale, 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 9. Public Sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11



JEAN ANDREWS LECTURE

Wednesday, April 14

In the auditorium, 7 p.m.

BOOK SIGNING IN THE STORE -

Saturday, April 17

Jan Wrede signs *Trees, Shrubs & Vines of the Texas Hill Country* noon to 3 p.m.

NATIVE PLANT SPRING SYMPOSIUM:

THE STATE OF TEXAS TREES

Saturday, April 24

This one-day meeting will focus on urban native tree programs, state conservation initiatives and individual species. Sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Texas and the Wildflower Center. Register at www.wildflower.org.

EARTH DAY WEEKEND - *Saturday, April 24*

Lance Allred sings *Enchanted Rock* 1 to 4 p.m.

Celebrating 10 Years of Seton Southwest Hospital

2nd Annual

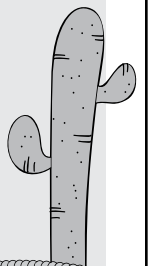
Goala

Join celebrity athletes including Olympic Gold Medalist Aaron Peirsol, former Dallas Cowboy Robert Jones, Gilbert Tuhabonye of Gilbert's Gazelle's, Olympic Gold Medalist Garrett Weber-Gale, Olympic swimmer Eric Shanteau, Texas Iron coaches and Pro Triathletes Andrea Fisher and Jamie Cleveland, and more for a fundraising event to sponsor Seton Southwest Hospital.

Live Music by The Tony Harrison Band
Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament
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Sunday, May 2
6:00 p.m.

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AUSTIN CURRENTS

Bluebonnet Photo Time

Many families return to the same spot each year to take family pictures in the bluebonnets which spring up all over Central Texas. Bluebonnets are some of the first flowers to open; when the bluebonnets come out, you know that winter is effectively over and spring is coming fast. The State of Texas plants seeds along our highways so that many can enjoy the blooms. The strength of bluebonnet blooms is in part based on how much rain was received in the fall, and to a lesser extent the rain over the early spring time.

Some of the better places to see carpets of bluebonnets are along Lake Buchanan, especially along RR 2341 and Graphite Mine Rd. A closer trip is just going to Burnet, and looking along TX 29. Or head out TX 71 toward Johnson City. Be sure to park well off the roadway for safety and do not enter private property without prior written permission.

If you want to get great pictures, I recommend either staying really low or shooting from above. Staying low concentrates the bluebonnet's color in the back of your subjects, but can include distracting features such as fences and power lines. When shooting from a point above and in front of your subjects, you can make them seem to float in a pool of bluebonnets because there is nothing else in the picture but them and the flowers. Early and late are best, but if you must take pictures during the middle of the day, try using a flash to fill in the shadows under your subjects' noses, chin and eyes.

- SUBMITTED BY RICH KEITH



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NATURE WATCH

The Song of the Vireo

As a family, vireos are small to medium-sized birds that seem similar to warblers at first glance, apart from their heavier bill and generally dull-green plumage. In fact, the word vireo is Latin for 'I am green.' Most vireo species are migratory, and return to their breeding grounds in early spring.

Of the 13 true vireo species that are present in the United States and Canada, none is more at risk than the black-capped vireo, which has been on the endangered species list since 1987. At 4.5 inches in length, it is the smallest vireo to occur regularly in the US, and ranges from only three counties in Oklahoma to central and west Texas, and south to north and central Mexico.



A handsome songbird, adult male black-capped vireos are olive green above and white below with faint yellow flanks and wing bars. A glossy black cap is broken by white spectacles that frame brownish-red irises, and the bill is black, sturdy, and slightly hooked at the tip. It takes two years for a male to reach full adult plumage. Females are similarly marked but duller in color, and have a slate gray crown and greenish-yellow underparts.

Recent research has shown that Black-capped vireos have the largest repertoire of song notes to draw from, about ten times larger than other vireos. The males are persistent singers, usually

(Continued on Page 9)

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Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 8)

vocalizing in melodious phrases of two to four notes separated by one to three second pauses. It can also emit several calls, including a scolding 'zhrree', especially while vigorously defending its territory. Insectivores, they glean leaves, twigs, and branches, sometimes hanging upside down or hovering, as they feed on beetles and caterpillars.

Black-capped vireos nest in brushy areas called 'shinneries.' Groups of shin oak or sumac of appropriate height and density are critical success factors for breeding, with the most important requirement being foliage that extends to ground level. Once trees begin to reach to full size, the vireos will look for other early succession sites in which to breed. Nests are an open, hanging cup, only 15-50 inches from the ground, and are made of leaves, grasses, plant fiber, and spider silk. Obscured from view by foliage, they are often decorated with items like lichens or bits of paper. The opening to the nest is usually narrower than the nest itself, but the nest is deep enough so that an adult bird can sit inside with only its bill and tail tip showing.

Both the male and female share the task of nest construction and incubation. After the three or four eggs that are laid have hatched, the female does most of the brooding while the male supplies most of the food. While breeding pairs are sometimes able to produce more than one clutch of eggs during the breeding season, the male

cares for some or all of the fledglings, while the female re-nests, sometimes with another male.

The black-capped vireo is endangered due to multiple threats of brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird as well as loss of suitable habitat through urbanization, fire exclusion, livestock grazing, and brush control. Female cowbirds may remove some of the host eggs from the nest and replace them with their own. These eggs hatch first and the quickly growing nestlings out-compete the smaller vireo nestlings for food and nest space. Cowbird trapping and habitat maintenance and creation through prescribed burning and mechanical manipulation are a high management priority in prime areas like the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve system.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy these articles, look for our book, NatureWatch Austin, to be published by Texas A&M University Press in 2011. - by **Jim and Lynne Weber**

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Sudoku

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

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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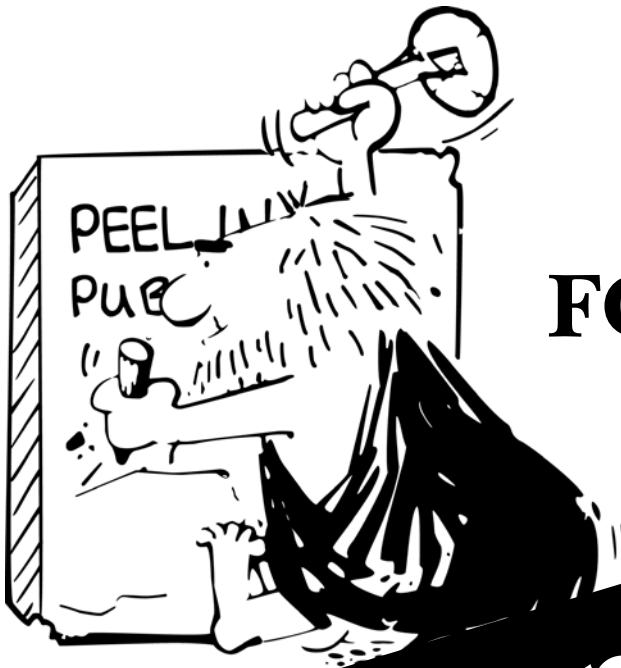
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