

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

May 2013

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A Newsletter for Riata Ranch Residents

SNAKE BITES A CONCERN AS WEATHER WARMS UP

Warmer weather coaxes snakes out of hiding, and it's important to know what to do after a snake bite, according to a medical toxicologist at Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu).

"Many people don't realize how much of an issue snake bites are in this area of the country," said Dr. Spencer Greene, director of medical toxicology and assistant professor of medicine – emergency medicine at BCM. "In fact, our regional poison center reported 235 snake bites – including 148 from known venomous snakes – in the Houston area in 2012, and I am sure many more are going unreported".

According to Greene, the first step is avoidance.

"Never reach into a hole or a bush blindly, a snake may be resting there," he said. "It is also important to maintain an appropriate distance from a snake. Most pit vipers, which include rattlesnakes, copperheads and water moccasins, can strike at a target up to two-thirds of their body length when provoked."

If you are bitten by a snake, Greene suggests the following important steps:

- Stay calm.
 - Call 911 immediately to be evaluated.
 - Take off anything that is constricting the affected area, such as a ring or watch.
 - Position the affected area at or above heart level. This means that if you are bitten on the hand, bring it to heart level, and if you're bitten on the leg or foot, elevate it if possible. This minimizes the amount of local tissue damage and swelling, which is the most common finding in pit viper bites.
 - Go to the emergency room – the sooner the better.
- Greene also dispels several myths about treating snake bites and suggests heeding the following advice:
- Do not apply a tourniquet or a constriction band.
 - Do not apply ice; it can cause local tissue damage.
 - Do not apply heat.
 - Don't cut the affected area and attempt to suck the venom out – this increases the amount of local tissue damage.
 - Don't use a commercially-available extraction device.
- These have also shown to be ineffective in removing venom

and actually increase the amount of tissue damage.

- Don't use electrical therapy.
- Don't apply any type of lotions or ointments.

The management of snake bites has changed over the years and the newer type of anti-venom has proven to be very effective in reducing pain, bleeding complications, swelling and tissue damage, Greene says. Although anti-venom has been shown to have the maximum effectiveness within the first 12 hours of the bite, it can still be effective a few days after the bite.

At the hospital, physicians will determine if anti-venom and hospital admission is necessary.

"Ideally, patients should be evaluated by a medical toxicologist with experience in managing snake bites," Greene says.

If a patient requires anti-venom, he or she usually spends one or two days in the hospital. After hospital discharge, patients will need to follow up twice a week for two weeks to watch for any signs of recurrent toxicity.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Fire Department.....	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital.....	713-932-3000
Poison Control.....	800-222-1222

SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD.....	281-897-4000
Postma Elementary.....	281-345-3660
Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
Spillane Middle.....	281-216-1645
Cy-Fair High.....	281-897-4600
Cy-Falls High.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Woods High.....	281-213-1800
Cy-Fair College.....	281-290-3200

UTILITIES

HCMUD #196	
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Centerpoint Entex Gas.....	713-659-2111
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Comcast Cable/High Speed Internet..	713-341-1000
Waste Mgt.....	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt.....	281-463-1777
United States Post Office.....	800-275-8777

LIBRARY

Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
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NEWSLETTER

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Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to riataranch@peelinc.com by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.



Deputy Voter Registrar Training Available

at Cypress-Tomball Democrats Meeting

The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will offer Deputy Voter Registrar training during their Tuesday, May 21st meeting. It will be held at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Xavier Herrera, Manager of Outreach from the Harris County Tax Office, will conduct training for anyone interested in becoming a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month. For more information, visit the website at www.cytomdems.com or contact Glenn Etienne at cytomdems@yahoo.com.

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jennifer4cci@aol.com
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* Men's & Ladies Longest Drive Prize * Closest to the Pin Prize * Putting Contest (Entry \$5)
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For More Information contact: Tammy Faber 713-899-7975 or tfaberpoynor@yahoo.com

Mail or E-Mail forms to: Tammy Faber, 5907 Deep South Drive, Katy, TX 77449

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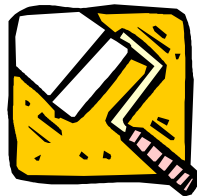
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Ranch Review



Elisha Roberts Chapter

The wonderful ladies of the Elisha Roberts Chapter, NSDAR, extend an invitation to any female, 18 years or older, who can prove direct lineal descent from someone who either fought in or provided aid during the American Revolution. We are a family oriented group of ladies who promote patriotism, education and historic preservation. Our motto is God, Home and Country. If this sounds like you, please come and join us for a meeting. We meet the third Thursday of each month, September through May, at the Backyard Grill, located at 9453 Jones Road. Our next meeting will be on May 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the chapter Regent, Cheryl Partney at cpart86@comcast.net or by phone at 832-654-0306.

We look forward to meeting you.

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Come join in on the FUN-
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*On the evening of
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*In Vintage Park, from
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For more information on this or
future events & membership please
contact Natalie Bunton at [gmat02@
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CY-FAIR KIWANIS CLUB

PLAY GOLF with the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club: MAY - annual Golf Tournament at the Hearthstone Country Club! Bring your own team or we will team you up with other players.

You do not have to be a Kiwanis member to play in or sponsor a team in the Golf Tournament. We welcome any who wish to participate. Businesses are encouraged to sponsor teams for their organization. It's good publicity to have your clients know you support activities that return all profits to the community through projects that support our youth and others in need. Play will be at the Hearthstone Country Club. For information, call Aaron Mackey at 281-865-2663.

The Kiwanis Kids Triathlon will be one of only 6 triathlon City-wide events this year and will be held at Langham Creek YWCA. Events include swimming, running, and bicycling and begin at 8 a.m. Registration information will be given out at the schools and can be found in the newspaper and community newsletters. All children 6 years through 12 years of age are invited to participate.

The Cy-Lakes Key Club was chartered in February by the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club, sponsor. Congratulations to these outstanding students. They have a charter membership of 169 students!

Attention, graduating seniors! It's time to get your applications in for Kiwanis college scholarships. Information should be available from your sponsors by the time this newsletter is published. We look forward

to rewarding the outstanding service and academic achievements of our Key Club members.

Wouldn't you like to be a part of this organization that assists in these activities that promote good citizenship and leadership in our youth? We invite you to a complimentary lunch to hear more about the children's activities we sponsor. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club sponsors nine Key Clubs in the Cy-Fair Schools; Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Sea Scout troops and activities; we provide scholarships to outstanding Key Club members in our district; and support other family oriented groups such as Cypress Assistance Ministries and Bear Creek Ministries; the Houston Food Bank; and many other nonprofit organizations. CHILDREN PRIORITY ONE is the motto of Kiwanis Clubs worldwide.

Membership is open to persons of good character who adhere to the standards of good conduct in their community and believe in and subscribe to the objects of Kiwanis International. If you would like to know more about Kiwanis and the programs it promotes, we invite you to be our guest at one of our monthly meetings. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis meet at Hearthstone Country Club on the first, second, and third Tuesday of each month at 12:15 for lunch and informative programs. For more information, call Peggy Presnell at 281-304-7127; John Carroll at 281-463-0373 or George Crowl at 832-467-1998.



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Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed! <http://www.tinych.org/signup>

Now-June 18: Discount Schlitterbahn Tickets for sale. <http://www.tinych.org/tickets>

May 18: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Pure Austin Quarry Lake. <http://www.tinych.org/QuarryLake>

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Water Safety Alert: 74 Texas children drowned last year.
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