

DECEMBER EVENTS at the Wildflower Center Submitted by Saralee Tiede

WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT DECEMBER 6-8, 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Featuring free admission, local artists wares in the Visitors Gallery Saturday and Sunday, Early Bird Specials Friday and Sunday morning, book signings and other offerings in The Store, and lots of opportunities to find beautiful scarves, nature images, glassware, soaps and other holiday gift options.

LUMINATIONS DEC. 14 AND 15, 6 TO 9 P.M.

Hundreds of luminarias light our garden paths, and twinkly lights light the trees as we celebrate the holidays with two free nights of music and festivities, including a visit from Frosty the Snowman. Bring two canned goods for the Capital Area Food Bank as entry fee.

CLOSED FOR THE WINTER BREAK DEC. 23 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2014

The Wildflower Center will be open Tuesday through Sunday in December through Sunday, December 22. Hours are listed at www. wildflower.org/visit.





More information at www.wildflower.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-974-5556
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	

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Canyon Creek Elementary	
Grisham Middle School	
Westwood High School	

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Pedernales Electric	
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Custom Service	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies	
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Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	
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OTHER NUMBERS

Balcones Postal Office	512	2-33	1-9	98(02	2
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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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CANYON CHRONICLE



By USPTA/PTR Master Professional Fernando Velasco





How to execute The Two Handed Backhand Lob

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit the forehand groundstroke, the two-handed backhand, the one-handed backhand, the forehand volley, the two handed backhand volley, the serve, the forehand half-volley, the one-handed backhand volley, the overhead "smash", the forehand service return, the backhand service return, the forehand high volley approach shot, the two handed high volley approach shot. the one-handed high volley approach shot, and the forehand lob.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute the Two Handed Backhand Lob. This shot is used when a player is forced to retrieve a ball that is hit deep to the backhand side of the player, and the opponent is either charging to the net or staying far back. The player hitting the lob is looking for "air time" to regain balance and court space. This ball should be hit high enough so the players at the net cannot reach and "slam" the ball down, or force the opponent at the base line to retrieve back. In the illustrations, Marimel Ansdell, a Member of the Grey Rock Tennis Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Marimel is forced deep into the backhand side and realizes that she has to hit a defensive lob, she pivots to the left and gets her racket back early. Notice that the head of the

racket is low and her left hand is on the handle of the racket. Her eyes are focused on the path of the ball and her weight is on her left foot.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: Marimel is now ready to hit the ball. Her eyes are now focused on the point of contact and the face of the racket is tilted at a 45 degree angle in order to create height and depth on her lob. Her goal is to keep her head still and not start looking up to her opponent or to the other side of the court.

Step 3: The Follow Through: The success of a deep lob is the follow through. Marimel's left wrist is still "laid back" and her shoulder is lifting the racket above her head. Her right hand is holding the racket slightly, but still in control of the racket.

Step 4: The Finish: In order to create a natural top spin on the lob, Marimel is now finishing her stroke with the racket behind her right ear. This will make the ball bounce higher and/or force the opponent to hit a tennis ball that is still rotating on the air.

Step 5: The Shuffle Back: Once Marimel finishes the stroke, her goal is to either move forward toward the net top to hit an overhead, or to shuffle back to the middle of the court in order to drive the next ball back to the opponent. In this caption, she moved back to the center of the court waiting for the opponent's shot to come back.

Look in the next Newsletter for: How to execute "The One-Handed Backhand Lob"

CANYON CHRONICLE

RAVELING WITHYOUR PET OVER THE HOLIDAYS? Here are some tips that will help make

your drive smooth sailing.

1. Take your pet on short trips prior to the big day to let him get used to traveling by car.

2. Keep your pet safe in a secured, well-ventilated crate or carrier. It should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around. Letting him have free range in the car not only puts him at risk, but it also poses a risk to your family if you were to stop suddenly.

3. Never let your dog travel in the bed of a truck. Even if he is secured on a short line to prevent him falling or jumping out, your pet can experience discomfort from the weather and wind or sustain injury from debris. 5. Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, which can quickly become a furnace and cause heatstroke, even with open windows. In cold weather, the car holds the temperature like a refrigerator.

6. Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.

7. Bring a bowl and extra water in case you get stuck in the inevitable holiday traffic jam!

8. Take lots of breaks to let your pet stretch his legs and relieve himself. It's a great excuse to do some sight-seeing or pick up a fun treat for yourself!

4. Feed your pet three or four hours prior to departure and avoid giving him any food or treats in the car.



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CANYON CHRONICLE

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Pruning Guidelines for Prevention of Oak Wilt in Texas NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE YOUR OAK TREES

Oak wilt, caused by the fungus Ceratocystis fagacearum, is the most destructive disease affecting live oaks and red oaks in Central Texas. Most of the tree mortality results from treetotree spread of the pathogen through interconnected or grafted root systems, once an oak wilt center becomes established. New infection centers begin when beetles carry oak wilt fungal spores from infected red oaks to fresh, open wounds on healthy oaks. Wounds include any damage caused by wind, hail, vehicles, construction, squirrels, birds or pruning. Research has shown that both oak wilt fungal mats on infected red oaks and insects that carry oak wilt spores are most prevalent in the spring. Below is a brief description of how you can reduce the risk of fungal spread when pruning.

- Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.
- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol[™] between sites and/or trees.
- If possible avoid pruning or wounding of oaks during the spring (currently defined as February1 through June 30). Reasons to prune in the spring include:

- To accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance.
- To repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)
- To remove limbs rubbing on a building or rubbing on other branches, and to raise low limbs over a street.
- On sites where construction schedules take precedence, pruning any live tissue should only be done to accommodate required clearance.
- Dead branch removal where live tissue is not exposed.

Pruning for other reasons (general tree health, non-safety related clearance or thinning, etc.) should be conducted before February 1 or after June 30. Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried. Regardless of the reasons or time of year, proper pruning techniques should be used. These techniques include making proper pruning cuts and avoiding injurious practices such as topping or excessive crown thinning. If you are uncertain about any of this information, you should consult with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, or an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas Forest Service or Texas AgriLife Extension Service.



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