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A Newsletter for the Residents of Legend Oaks



How's your brisketiquette?

*This article was contributed by the National League
of Junior Cotillions – Travis County*

With the summer vacation in full swing, the kids out of school, and noodles floating in the pool, it's no doubt the grill is staying fired up. But...before you kick off the flip-flops, here are a few barbecue etiquette tips to ensure your grill fest goes down as the best on the block. Wait. Barbecue etiquette, you say? Yes, it exists.

1. If you're invited to a barbecue party thrown by an individual/family, avoid showing up empty-handed. A side of coleslaw, apple pie, or pitcher of lemonade will do the trick.

2. A barbecue is an informal affair – no need to worry about which fork and knife to use. Go ahead and use your fingers in lieu of utensils. Larger pieces of food, however, should be cut with a knife and fork. No need to get medieval on us.

3. If you're like many people who wonder what is the proper way to squeeze a lemon slice and a lemon wedge? Well, here is the answer: if it is a slice, don't squeeze it—just drop it in the glass. If it is a wedge, cup your hand over it to prevent squirting, and squeeze it into the glass. Who likes lemon pulp in the eye? Not me.

4. Corn on the cob vs. man. For most people, eating corn on the cob is one of life's biggest challenges. Okay, well, maybe it's just a challenge. The best way to approach a hot cob: simply, butter a few rows of corn at a time, hold the corn firmly by the ends with two hands (or use corn skewers), and eat a few rows at a time from left to right. If you prefer to skip the bite-off-the-cob approach, you

may also cut kernels off of the cob with a knife, cutting in a vertical, downward manner.

5. Similar to corn on the cob, ribs are meant to be eaten with your hands. Given their messy nature, however, it's important to have napkins on hand. For this barbecue favorite, bibs are not necessary.

6. Sauce is boss, unless it isn't offered. While Texans are usually proud of their barbecue sauce, some barbecue purists prefer no sauce to appreciate the natural, smoked flavor of the meat. Ask for sauce only when you know it's available, or if your child requests it.

7. Grilled shrimp can be easy to eat or take a little work, depending on how it is served. As a general rule of thumb, if the shrimp has the tail on, you can use your fingers. Tails off, use a fork!

8. When hosting a large group, be sure to have a wide variety of food options for vegetarians and children.

9. To pick or not to pick? Your teeth that is. Often times, meat can be tricky to eat and require some dental maintenance. At every expense, avoid removing food from your teeth in public. Toothpicks may be used, but only in private. So what should you do if you notice someone else in the same predicament? Be discreet, but do tell.

10. Last and not least, respect the griller's domain. If the host/griller has samples to offer, he/she will do so. Never assume you may help yourself to try what "smells good."

Now that the fundamentals are covered, what's for lunch?

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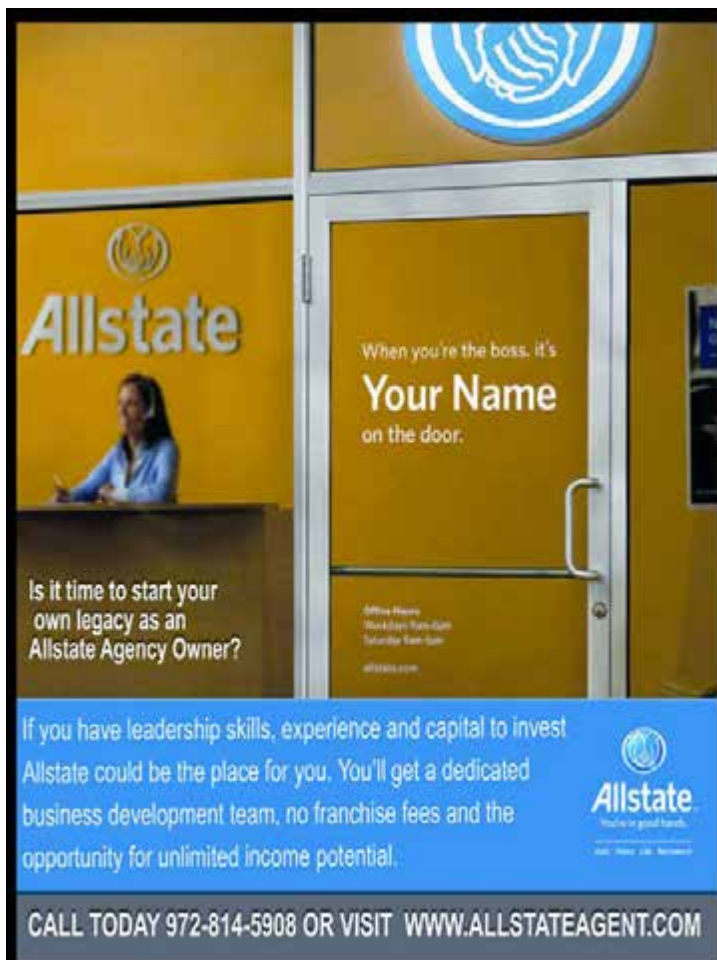
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Tadah! Can You Believe This?

Your local Austin Music Teachers Association was just nominated the best in the country!

Submitted by: Nell Trimble, Benevolence Chair for A.D.M.T.A.

The Music Teachers National Association just awarded your local association as being the 2014 State Affiliate of the Year or the best in our country!

Why? Because of "programming for students" which includes 20 events and "community outreach" such as Youth Music Ambassadors which means the most opportunities for your child!

Also, our Dr. Martha Hilley right here in Austin at the University of Texas, was selected as the Teacher of the Year for Music Teachers National Association. We here in Austin nominated her for that award and then she was selected as that first at the state level and then nationally! Dr. Hilley's teaching sparkles with a fountain of electrically inspiring ideas. She also is a writer and deeply involved on a statewide level with the governing of our colleges. Her picture

and caption supporting President Powers was on page 2 of the 7/13 Sunday Austin American Statesman.

In addition Dr. Sophia Gilmsom was just awarded silver in the Global Music Awards for her CD of the Goldberg Variations On Harpsichord and Piano by Johann Sebastian Bach. Dr. Gilmsom is the head of Piano Pedagogy at the university here.

Perhaps the most outstanding concert I have ever been to was her performance of that work both on the piano and harpsichord. How totally different was the music on the two instruments!

To find a piano teacher in your area, go to www.admta.org, click on the link to "Community Resources" on the home page for our new "Find a Teacher" registry with descriptions of each teacher's program in their studios.

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NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Hairstreaks are mainly small butterflies, most with threadlike tails on their hindwings. They typically fly rapidly, flitting from side to side or in circles, before sticking a landing. Most perch with their wings closed, and reveal their upper surface only in flight. Males and females can look quite similar, but the males will often be the more vibrantly colored of the two.

In central Texas we have three common hairstreak butterflies. The largest, as indicated by its name, is the Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*). Dusky purplish-black below and brilliant blue above with red spots near the base of the wings and a bright orange abdomen, this butterfly flies spring through fall. It tends to stay well above the ground, and males will sit on trees on hill summits or flat plains to await females, mostly in the afternoon. Its larval foodplant, or plant upon which the female lays her eggs, is mistletoe species in the genus *Phoradendron*.

Another commonly encountered hairstreak is the Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*). It has only one tail on the hindwing and an upperside that is blue-gray with a large reddish-orange spot near the tail. The male's abdomen is orange and the female's is gray. In the spring and fall its underside is dark gray, and paler gray in the summer, but it always has a dashed white line, parallel and inset from the wing's edge, bordered with orange. It flies from February to November and is the most widespread hairstreak in North America. Males perch all afternoon and into evening on small trees and shrubs to seek receptive females, who lay eggs one at a time on a wide variety of plants

(Continued on Page 5)



Great Purple Hairstreak (photo by Randy L Emmitt)



Juniper Hairstreak

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NatureWatch (Continued from Page 4)

including peas, mallows, beans, clovers, and cotton.

One of our most beautiful hairstreaks is the Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus*), belonging to a group called Evergreen Hairstreaks, which are widespread and variable. The upperside of the male is dark brown with an olive-colored sheen, and the female is blackish brown. Their underside is a vibrant green with two white spots near the base of the forewing and an irregular white line edged inwardly with a reddish-brown. Males perch on host trees, those in the genus *Juniperus* like our native Ashe Juniper, awaiting females. They perch with their wings closed and blend into the junipers so well that they may not be noticed until moving branches cause them to fly.

When it comes to survival, hairstreaks have developed an interesting adaptation, much of which has to do with their tails. Often having distinct markings or spots near these tails, together they form what is known as a 'false head' with the tails looking like antennae. The illusion is carried further when the hairstreak performs a back-and-forth 'sawing' motion with the hindwings when resting. This motion can distract would be predators such as spiders, causing them to attack the wrong end of the butterfly, leaving the vital structures intact.

Missing tails and part of the lower portion of the hindwings does not hinder flight, and the butterfly lives to carry on another day. So it really is true that two heads are better than one!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and



Gray Hairstreak (photo by Jeffrey Pippen)

we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press, or subscribe to our blog at <http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com>.



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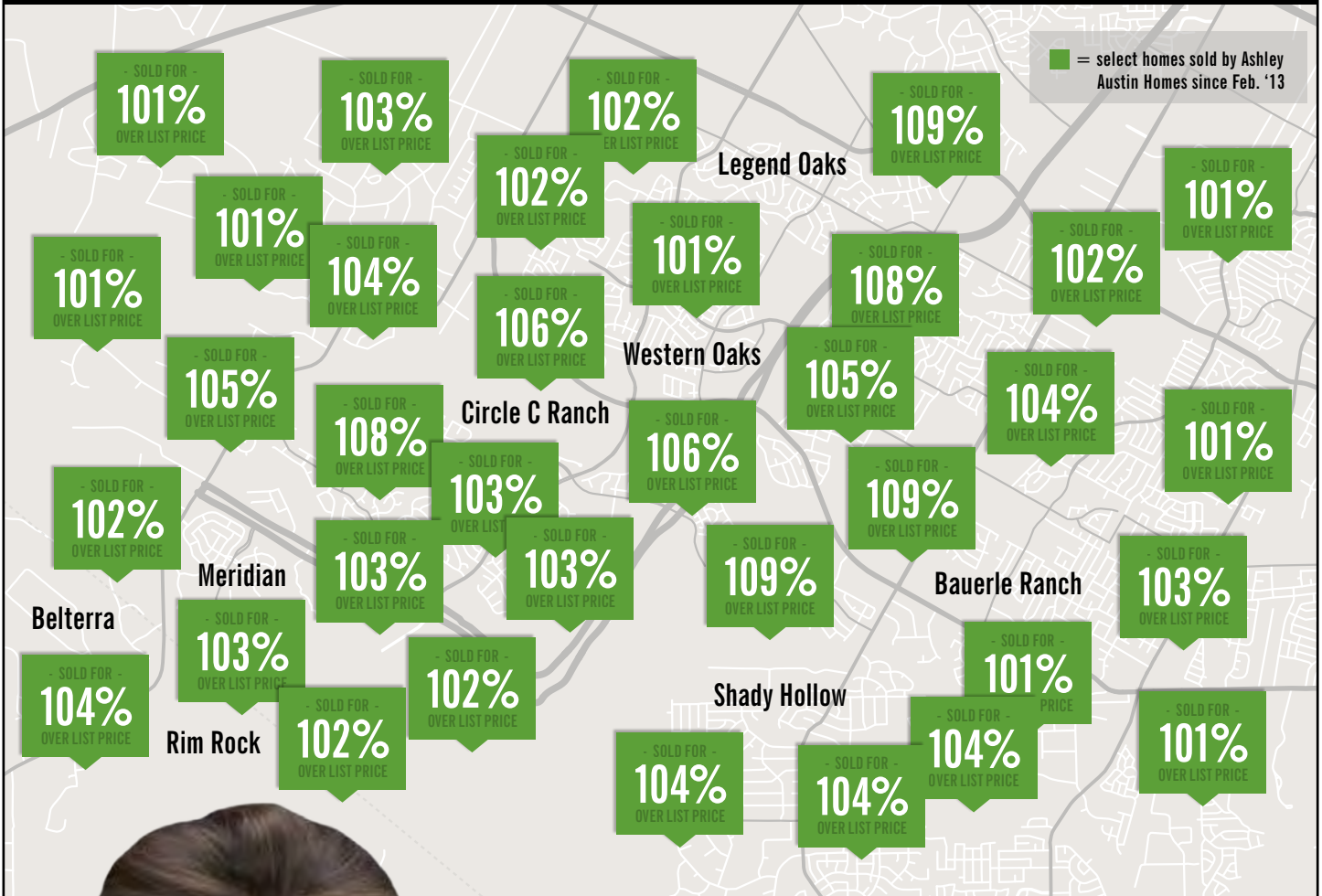


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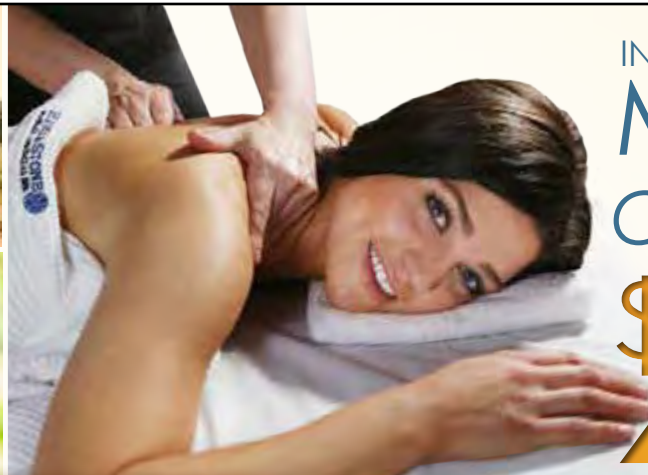
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