

Porcelain Art Club of Austin Annual Exhibit and Christmas Sale

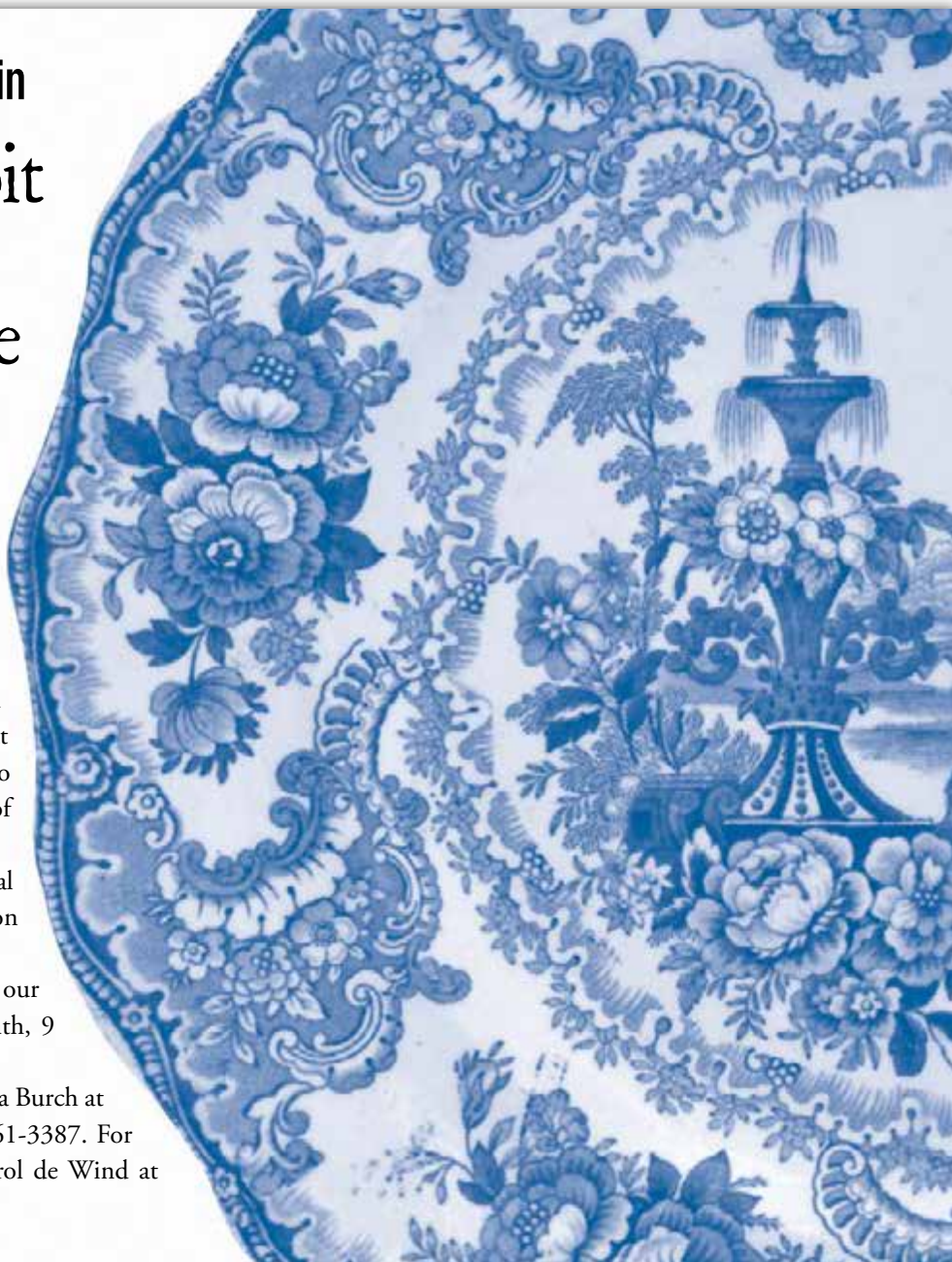
Submitted by Carol de Wind

The Porcelain Art Club of Austin will be combining its Annual Exhibit and Christmas Sale this year. The Club will be exhibiting some beautiful pieces of hand-painted china, designed and painted by our members. Many pieces will be for purchase. This year, we will be offering a lovely gift box, stuffed full of items for that special person on your list. We will also have a raffle drawing for a painted piece of porcelain.

Please come and join us at Zilker Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Road, on December 6 between 10 AM and 3 PM.

You are also very welcome to visit us at our meetings, the first Monday of each month, 9 AM to 1 PM, at Zilker Gardens.

For more information, please call Joanna Burch at 512-392-5151 or Alice Nelson at 512-261-3387. For membership information, please call Carol de Wind at 512-301-5143.



WELCOME

A Newsletter for Meridian residents

The Monitor is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Meridian residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com or you can email it meridian@peelinc.com. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome.

Our goal is to keep you informed!

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Monitor possible. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

NEWSLETTER INFO

PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181
Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

**NOT AVAILABLE
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PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN

Paul is a sweet, loving boy—and he almost always has a smile on face! While he is extremely active and loves to play sports and be outside, Paul does well academically and is a polite young man.

Paul is 7 years old and is confident in his abilities to entertain others with his dance moves, creativity, and jokes. An abundance of support and patience will help Paul achieve success in his promising young life.

To find out more about Paul, please contact Grace Lindgren, LMSW, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, at (512) 810-0813 or glindgren@helpinghandhome.org.

Adopting a child from the foster care system requires little or no cost to the adoptive family and funding may be available to help the adoptive family support the child or sibling group.

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a program of Partnerships for Children. To learn more about the adoption or fostering process, please call the Heart Gallery of Central Texas at (512) 834-3102, email heartgallery@partnershipsforchildren.org or visit our website at www.partnershipsforchildren.org.

TEXAS A&M AgriLIFE CARPENTAR ANTS

Carpenter ants nest outdoors in dead wood (tree stumps or dead limbs, fences, firewood, etc.). They may also be found in wood siding, beams, joists, fascia boards or trim on structures. Damage is usually limited since carpenter ants tunnel and nest within wood; they do not eat wood. However, wood can become weakened by carpenter ant excavation.

Carpenter ants are large ants that can vary in color from all black to reddish to yellowish or a combination of colors. These ants have one node, no stinger and a circle of hairs at the tip of their abdomen.

Galleries in the nest are excavated following the grain of the wood and have clean, smooth walls. Nest locations may be discovered by searching for piles of sawdust-looking material under exit holes. Sawdust is coarse and may also contain soil or sand, uneaten insects as well as dead ants from the colony.



Carpenter ants are able to enter homes from tree branches or utility lines touching the home, through cracks and crevices around windows and doors, cracks in foundation walls, ventilation openings or heating and air conditioning ducts.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR A CARPENTER ANT INFESTATION:

- Remove dead trees and/ or limbs and remove tree stumps from the landscape. Many times you can remove the (possible) nesting sites and get rid of the ants without using pesticides.
- Prune trees and shrubs that touch the home. Carpenter ants will often use these areas as a bridge to enter the home.
- Replace wood that is water damaged. Carpenter ants are drawn to moisture damaged wood, so make sure to repair any water leaks and replace damaged wood.
- Remove wood debris and firewood that is near the home. Carpenter ants may nest in firewood and when it is stacked right next to the home, it allows the ants to enter more easily.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

WHAT GALL!

In nature, galls refer not to brazen behavior but to abnormal outgrowths on the surface of certain life forms. Plant galls, or cecidia, can be caused by various parasites from fungi to bacteria as well as by insects and mites. In the United States there are over 2000 species of gall-inducing insects, and the majority are reported to form galls on oak trees.

The formation of a gall begins with the hatching of the eggs of certain wasp species laid on the plant. It progresses when the larvae (or the adult female) injects chemicals into the plant, and the tissue swells in reaction, forming a spherical microhabitat around the larvae. The gall's purpose is twofold, providing the larvae with nutrients and protecting them from predators. Once fully grown, the all-female, adult insects bore an exit hole out to the surface of the gall and disperse.

While usually forming in the spring when the most rapid plant cell division occurs, galls initially appear light green in color but become even more noticeable in the fall when oak trees drop their leaves. Dull, dry, and brown, the spent galls are often scavenged by mammals searching for leftover food as winter approaches.

Gall-inducing insects are usually species-specific and sometimes even tissue-specific (branches, leaves, buds, roots) in the plants they select. In central Texas, most of the gall-inducing insects are gall wasps, and while they are closely associated with several species of our native oaks, they can also be identified by the types of galls they produce.

In general, you may find leaf galls with orangish 'hair' formed by the Hedgehog gall wasp, and sticky, spongy galls on twigs with seed-like structures inside formed by the Wool sower gall wasp. On live oaks, you can find woody twig and stem galls formed by the Mealy oak gall wasp, and leaf galls formed by the Woolly leaf gall wasp. The oak apple wasp, however, prefers our red oaks and forms spherical, spongy-filled galls.

Gall-making insects are generally not considered pests, and some galls are even considered attractive and are used in flower arrangements and other crafts. While certain species may cause some aesthetic damage to a plant such as leaf discoloration or early defoliation, most of these insects do not permanently damage the host plant, but just use them to further their own purpose. What gall!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our blog at:

naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com



Hedgehog gall on white oak (photo by J. Hahn)



Hedgehog gall on white oak (photo by J. Hahn)



Hedgehog gall on white oak (photo by J. Hahn)

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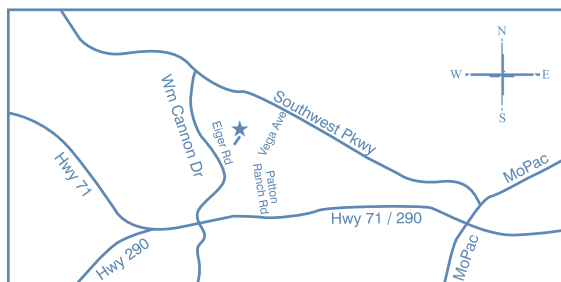
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Email the picture to meridian@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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GOT STATS?

Meridian by Square Ft Range	6 Months Sold History (04/2014-09/2014)						Current Market	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Sold Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
<2500	4	2,295	\$ 154	\$ 352	2007	17	2	2
2500-2999	9	2,751	\$ 139	\$ 384	2008	6	2	2
3000-3499	4	3,281	\$ 141	\$ 463	2008	20	3	1
3500-3999	11	3,600	\$ 143	\$ 514	2008	61	3	1
4000-4500	1	4,244	\$ 158	\$ 671	2009	4	3	1
>4500	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Meridian Total	29	3,135	\$ 144	\$ 450	2008	30	13	7
% Change Mo/Mo	-3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-15%	30%	40%
% Change Yr / Yr	-28%	-4%	7%	3%	0%	-18%	8%	0%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 10/05/2014. Texas License # 515586.

In some cases new construction and F560 homes are not included and not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.



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