

Take Care of Texas by Managing Your Leaves

As autumn brings cooler temperatures, it also signals the arrival of another seasonal display – falling leaves!

While Take Care of Texas encourages you to plant shade trees to help lower your utility bills in the summer, these deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall. Instead of raking and bagging them, where they will head to a landfill, put them back into your lawns and gardens as a valuable source of mulch and fertilizer.

Leaves contain 50 to 80 percent of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season. Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard debris make up 20 percent of the trash sent to landfills each year. It costs Texans over \$250 million a year to collect and dispose of this waste.

There are four basic ways to manage leaves and use them in landscaping:

Mowing: a light covering of leaves can be mowed, simply leaving the shredded leaves in place on the lawn. This technique is most effective when a mulching mower is used.

Mulching: a lawn mower with a bagging attachment provides a fast and easy way to shred and collect the leaves. Apply a three to four inch layer of shredded leaves around the base of trees and shrubs. A two to three inch mulch of shredded leaves is ideal for flowerbeds. For vegetable gardens, a thick layer of leaves placed between the rows functions as a mulch and an all-weather walkway that will allow you to work in your garden during wet periods.

Composting: in addition to leaves, other yard wastes such as grass clippings, pine needles, weeds, and small prunings can be composted. Compost can serve as a soil conditioner that nourishes your yard and reduces the need for outdoor watering up to 60 percent.

Soil improvement: leaves may be collected and worked directly into garden and flowerbed soils. A six to eight inch layer of leaves tilled into a heavy, clay soil will improve aeration and drainage. The same amount tilled into a light, sandy soil, will improve water and nutrient holding capacity.



THE MONITOR

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
ONLINE**




Recipe of the Month

"Pumpkin Pie"

1 can pumpkin 1 can evaporated milk
1 cup brown sugar, 2 eggs, beaten
1 t. salt ½ tsp. ginger
2 t. cinnamon ½ tsp. allspice
¼ tsp. cloves


Combine and mix well. Pour into pie crust. Bake at 425° for 15 minutes; then 350° for about 45 minutes.

Submit your recipes to info@peelinc.com.



**A GYM TRANSFORMS BODIES.
THE Y TRANSFORMS LIVES.**

At the Southwest YMCA, you and your family will find more than a gym—you will find a community with a cause. Join us and discover how you and your family can be transformed today!

 **SOUTHWEST FAMILY YMCA**
6219 Oakclaire Dr & Hwy 290
512.891.9622 • AustinYMCA.org

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

THE SEVEN-FACED BIRD

Most often, the traditional star of holiday meals in the United States is the domestic turkey. Interestingly, this bird is only one of two wild bird species native to North America (the other is Muscovy Duck) that have been bred specifically for human consumption. Wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) were first domesticated in Mexico, and then exported to Europe. European settlers brought domesticated turkeys back to the New World, but would also hunt the wild birds they found. Currently, there are more than 7 million wild turkeys in North America, a pretty astounding fact when they were almost extinct by the 1930s due to overhunting and deforestation of their preferred habitat.

Adult wild turkeys are large birds with long reddish-yellow to grayish-green legs, with each foot having three toes in front and a shorter, rear-facing toe in back. Their body feathers are generally blackish to dark brown, with a coppery sheen that becomes more pronounced in mature males. The toms or gobblers, as the males are called, have a large, featherless, reddish head, red throat, and red wattles on both the throat and neck. The long, fleshy object hanging over the male's beak is called a 'snood', and the tail feathers are all one length. Juvenile males are called jakes, and they have shorter wattles and a tail fan with longer feathers in the middle. Males also have a spur behind each of their lower legs, which they use when fighting. Wild turkeys show a strong sexual dimorphism, with the males being significantly larger than the females or hens. The hens have duller feathers overall, mainly in shades of brown and gray. Young females are called jennies, and the very young of both sexes are called poults.

In Japanese and Korean, the turkey is called 'shichimencho' and 'chilmyeonjo' respectively, both of which translate to 'seven-faced bird.' This reflects the ability of the male wild turkey to change the color of its facial skin and wattles in a matter of seconds due to excitement or emotion. While the birds' head color can range from red to pink to white to blue, certain changes represent certain moods. When the male is excited his head turns blue, and when he is ready to fight it turns red.

Unlike their domestic counterparts and despite their weight, wild turkeys are agile fliers. While their powerful legs can get them running up to 25 mph, their top speed in flight is 55 mph. In their ideal habitat of open woodland or wooded grasslands, they fly beneath the canopy top and sleep up in trees. They can live an average of 3-5 years in the wild, eating a varied diet that includes grains, insects, berries, and even small reptiles. Their daytime vision is three times better than a human's and they see in color, but they have poor vision at night.

There are 6 different subspecies of wild turkey in North America, showing differences in coloration, habitat, and behavior. In our region, the Rio Grande Wild Turkey (*M. g. intermedia*) is dominant, naturally ranging through Texas to Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oregon. Having slightly longer legs than other subspecies, it is better adapted to a prairie habitat, with a more greenish-coppery sheen and buff-colored feathers on the tail tips and lower back. This subspecies prefers brushy areas near streams or rivers, and forests of scrub oak, pine, and mesquite.



Male Wild Turkey



Female Wild Turkey

Either way you slice it, as you celebrate the holidays this year, reflect on the wonders of the 'seven-faced bird,' appreciate their history with humans, and keep an eye out for wild wattle and snood!

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, look for our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com for additional topics.

naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com

A FEW HOLIDAY THOUGHTS...

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better
than at Christmas, when its mighty founder was a
child Himself.
Charles Dickens

There are two ways to live your life. One is as
though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though
everything is a miracle.
Albert Einstein

The way you spend Christmas is far more important
than how much.
Henry David Thoreau



Climate Mechanical's Planned Service Agreement And 1 Year Contract

Guarantees Your System Will Be Thoroughly
Checked To Prevent And/Or Diagnose Any
Possible Issues.

- Heating and AC System Replacement
- Duct Sealing and Repair or Replacement
- Blown In Attic Insulation
- Air Balance for Overall Comfort

Call Today 512.440.0123
www.ClimateMechanical.com



**Receive \$20 off
Your Next Service
When You Present
This Coupon**

Benefits Of A Planned Service Agreement

- Peace of mind with safe operation assurance
- Automatic, regular maintenance visits
- System Diagnostic Check Is Included As Part Of Our Exclusive Agreement
- Potential problems can be spotted before trouble and major expenses occur
- Our exclusive ProTune includes a one year guarantee covering trip and diagnostic charges should a system failure occur
- Lubricating, adjusting and cleaning keeps your heating and cooling system running at peak trouble free efficiency
- Lower energy usage
- Extended system life

Ask About 0% Interest For 60 Months

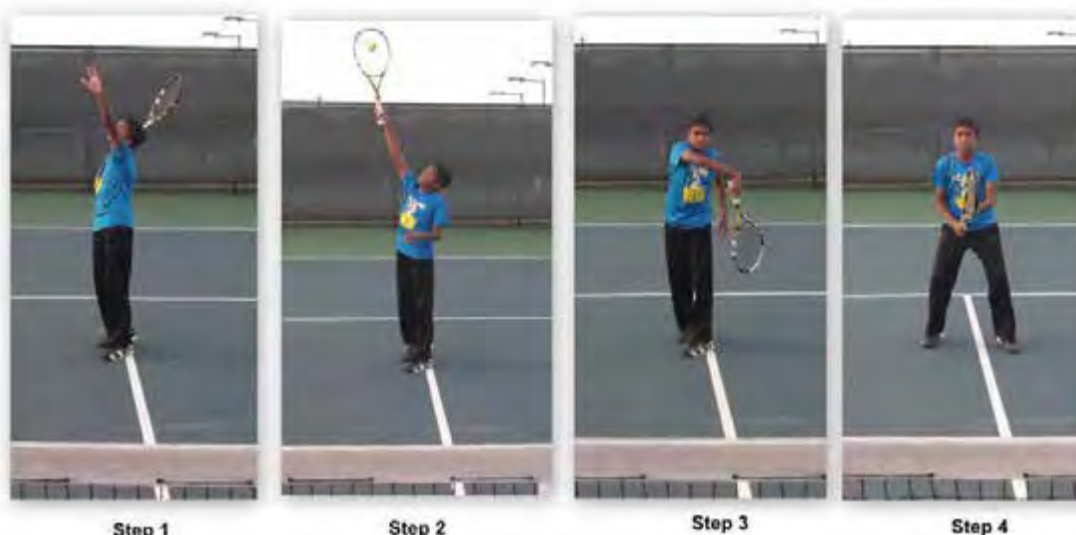
Water Leakage Not Covered by ProTune Agreement



512.440.0123
Dripping Springs
512.858.9595
TACLA28642E

TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco



The Modern Game: The Slice Overhead

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are content with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may already be playing for leagues or tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute “The Slice Overhead.” This shot is utilized when an opponent hits a lob that is both high and deep. The player will take the overhead and hit it slightly on the side of the ball forcing the opponent off the court.

In the illustrations, Chaitanya Aduru, one of the top players at the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Chaitanya is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Chaitanya sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high

and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, and his eyes are focused on the ball. His right wrist is “laid back” to allow maximum for point of contact.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: The success of a slice overhead shot is in keeping the ball on the strings of the racket as long as possible outside of the ball. Chaitanya started the swing high and is allowing the head of the racket to be fully extended. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight is moving through the shot.

Step 3: The Follow Through: In order to attain maximum control and power, Chaitanya is wrapping the racket around his body. He has “snapped” his right wrist and has the head of the racket facing down. His weight is going forward.

Step 4: The Ready Position: If Chaitanya’s overhead is successful but was not a winner, he now gets ready for the next shot, which probably would be a volley.

Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Modern Game: The Forehand Baseline Drop Shot”

WITH DRAMATICALLY MORE HOMES ON THE MARKET IN SOUTHWEST AUSTIN, SELLERS NEED A WINNING GAME PLAN

Ashley Austin Homes knows that it's all about the bottom line when it comes to selling your home successfully.

Ashley has a proven track record of selling homes above the listing price in less than half the time it takes other brokers – and we offer FLEXIBLE COMMISSIONS!

Bottom line: Ashley Austin Homes puts more money in your pocket faster than anyone else.



FULLY CUSTOMIZED MARKETING PLANS

We translate our knowledge of the market and current trends into powerful sales strategies



PROFESSIONAL HOME STAGING

Home staging by an HGTV veteran and photos by an award-winning photographer draw attention to your home's most desirable features



HIGH-IMPACT MARKETING

Custom marketing materials for your home are targeted to leading online and print publications and there's no break until your home is "SOLD"



90 DAYS OR FREE GUARANTEE

We commit to a price and time frame for the sale of your home – if we don't meet our commitment, we sell your home for free!



ASHLEY AUSTIN

HOMES



ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM 512-217-6103

ASHLEY STUCKI EDGAR, REALTOR ASHLEY@ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM

f/ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES

@ASHLEYATXHOMES

CLHMS
Certified Luxury Home
Marketing Specialist

kw. LUXURY HOMES
INTERNATIONAL
KELLER WILLIAMS® REALTY

ASHLEY AUSTIN HOMES HAS A NEW LOOK AND A NEW WEBSITE!

OUR NEWLY DESIGNED
WEBSITE DELIVERS
AN EASIER,
FASTER, AND
MORE EFFECTIVE
EXPERIENCE FOR
BUYERS AND SELLERS.

- View beautiful photographs and detailed information about every property in an easy-to-read layout
- Create and save custom searches to quickly find the perfect home for you
- Save your favorites, share with friends, or request a viewing in a single click
- Download comprehensive Buyer's and Sellers' Guides with Ashley's tips and insights on finding or selling a home successfully in the current market



CALL TODAY TO FIND OUT HOW
ASHLEY AUSTIN HOMES SELLS MORE OF AUSTIN'S
PROPERTIES FASTER AT TOP DOLLAR!

2013 #1 TOP PRODUCING AGENT KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY / MARKET CENTER #199

#2 TOP PRODUCING AGENT IN AUSTIN (AUSTIN BUSINESS JOURNAL, 2014)

#28 IN THE STATE OF TEXAS (REAL TRENDS, 2013)

THE MONITOR

Traveling with your pet over the holidays? Here are some tips that will help make your drive smooth sailing.

Submitted by Kristen West, Owner of Gusto Dogs LLC.

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.

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

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.

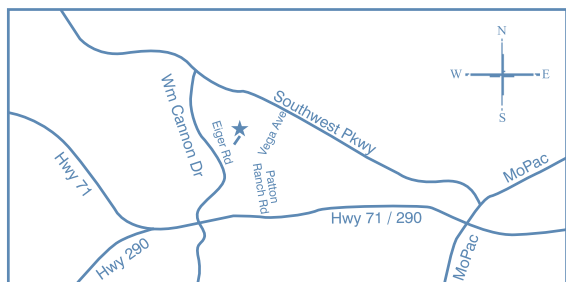
6. Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.

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!



Comprehensive
Convenient
Consistent



- ✓ PRIMARY CARE
- ✓ SPECIALISTS
- ✓ LAB
- ✓ IMAGING
- ✓ PHARMACY

Southwest Medical
Village offers patients
the highest quality
care in an innovative,
integrated medical
community.

swmedicalvillage.com

One Community Caring For Your Health.

5625 EIGER RD. AUSTIN, TX 78735

Fit and Fun: Health Tips for You and Your Children

Getting fit and staying fit can be a fun process. That's true for individuals, and it's especially true for families.

Fitness is an important topic, especially when your daily routine involves a lot of sitting, whether at work, at school, or at home in front of a computer or TV screen.

The habits that we learn as children are often the habits we carry into adulthood. As parents, we can help our children build healthy habits and find new, fun ways to motivate ourselves and our children to get active.

Below are some ideas for getting off the couch and having some fun while getting fit:

- Take an active vacation: It's tempting every day to think of your vacation as a time to sit and relax. But isn't that what your body does everyday? Instead, you can plan a trip that includes hiking, biking, skiing, and other activities that the whole family can do together.

- Visit a local park: It doesn't have to take a whole day, but you could spend a few hours playing at a park. Take a ball (football or soccer), a Frisbee, or a hacky sack, and play. You can invite some friends to join you, too. And remember: It's not just about the kids moving around – it's your time, too!

- Hold a block party: Call your neighbors, and block off the closest cul-de-sac for a get together that includes fun and active games. From freeze tag and relay races to hide-and-seek and kickball, there are hundreds of activities to choose from that are fun for everyone.

- Go for a hike: Find a local area where you and your family can go and hike for a few miles. Spend time outdoors, and enjoy what nature has to offer while you all get fit!

For more ideas about fun activities, visit the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance's Web site at: www.aahperd.com.

The Goal: Be instrumental in encouraging children to develop the good habit of moving through space, nurturing their physical power, and getting fit.

For more information about healthy activities, contact your health care provider or your Concentra health specialist. For more information on the importance of fitness for children, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site at:

www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/physicalactivity



CIRCLE C DENTAL

512.301.BITE (2483)

9600 Escarpment Blvd, Austin TX 78749

www.circlecdental.com

www.facebook.com/southaustindentist

**Advertise
Your Business
Here!**

888.687.6444



Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club
308 Meadowlark St
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - [Facebook.com/PeelInc](https://www.facebook.com/PeelInc).

DUE: December 31st

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: _____
(first name, last initial)

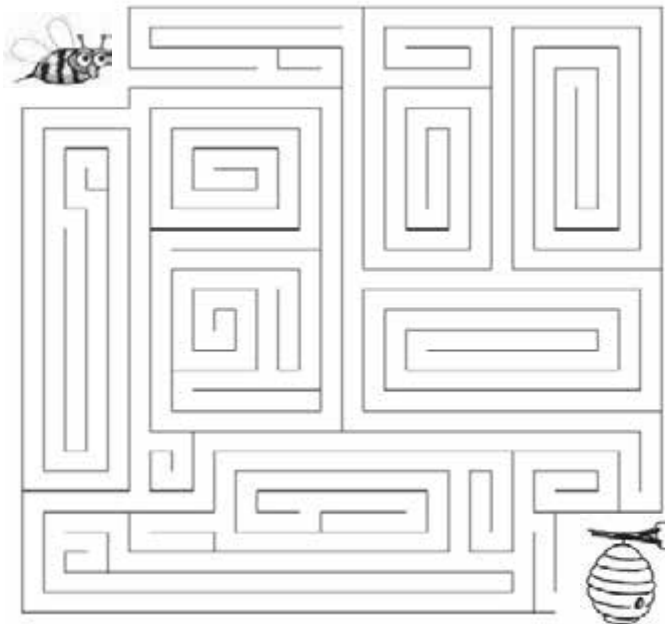
Age: _____



MER

Kidz Maze Mania

Help Buzz get back to the beehive!



The Monitor is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use The Monitor's contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

got news?

Submit your news at:
www.peelinc.com



PEEL, INC.
308 Meadowlark St.
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

MER



TaraWest.Info

#1 Meridian has almost 5 months of available inventory, that's considered a Balanced Market.

#2 The # of Homes SOLD in MLS for the prior 6 Months = 29, That's 19% less than same time last year

#3 The Average Price / SF for a Meridian property was \$144! That's 6% higher than same time last year.

#4 The # of ACTIVE Listings in MLS was 13, that's 117% more than this time last year!

#5 The # of homes under contract (PENDING) is 7, that's 30% less than same time last year.

GOT ~~STATS?~~ FACTS!

Meridian by Square Ft Range	6 Months Sold History (05/2014-10/2014)						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	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% Change Yr / Yr	-19%	-2%	6%	4%	0%	-33%	117%	-30%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 11/05/2014. Texas License # 515586.
In some cases new construction and 1500+ homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.



Tara West

Located in Escarpment Village

9600 Escarpment Blvd., Suite 930

(512) 632-3110 ~ Tara@AustinReps.com