

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 2015 Volume 10, Issue 3

A DESCENT OF NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Known for creeping up tree trunks and drilling into wood to nest and find food, woodpeckers are arboreal birds having a vertical posture, rounded wings, a chisel-shaped bill, short legs with strong claws, and stiff tail feathers. These features enable them to climb, prey on insects, and feed on nuts and fruits.

A woodpecker uses its tail for support as it moves up a tree trunk. Stiff, pointed tail feathers reinforced with longitudinal ridges also have small barbs that curve inward towards the tree, allowing the bird to use its tail as a brace. Its feet are 'zygodactyl', meaning two toes facing forward and two toes facing backward, which helps support it when clinging to vertical surfaces. While all woodpecker bills are chisel-shaped, differences in curvature are based on the hardness of the species of wood it excavates as well as the hammering force it uses. Tongues are also specialized in that they are barbed, sticky, and extremely long for the bird's head, which reduces the amount of excavation required for foraging.

One of the most common and noticeable species of woodpecker in our area is the Ladder-backed Woodpecker (Picoides scalaris), which has a black and white barred back, spotted sides, and a face marked with black lines. The males also sport an extensive reddish



Ladder-backed Woodpecker (adult male)

crown, while the female's crown is black. While it can nest in several types of trees, it most often nests in tall cactus in the western part of the state, giving it the old name of 'cactus woodpecker.' Ladderbacked woodpeckers feed on beetle larvae from small trees, but will also eat prickly pear cactus fruits (tunas) and forage on the ground for insects. When gleaning for insects in trees, the larger male probes and pecks on trunks and larger



Golden-fronted Woodpecker (adult male)

limbs with his stouter bill, while the female more often concentrates on gleaning bark surfaces on higher branches and outer twigs.

The Golden-fronted Woodpecker (Melanerpes aurifrons) also has a black and white barred back, but a creamy white to pale yellow breast, a golden orange nape, and a small red cap on the male. A bird found west of the Balcones Escarpment, in flight they show white wing patches, a white rump, and a black

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JESTER EASTER EGG HUNT & PETTING ZOO

Saturday, March 28th 9:30 am @ Jester Club

(Note: This is the weekend before Easter weekend!)

Please drop off one dozen eggs per child (filled with candy, money, stickers, etc.... but no chocolate, please!) Look for drop-off signs posted at various locations



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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing diana0777@att.net or by going to:

> www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php. All news must be received by the 12th of the month prior to the issue.

SOCIAL GROUPS

CONTACT INFO

BUNKO - If you'd like to join or be put on the list as a sub, contact Vallie Marana at valliemarana@gmail.com or 925-408-5206 (cell). They are a lively group and play on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7 pm.

CYCLING - Want to join a Jester road biking group and participate in organized rides? Contact Troy Reish at troy.reish@gmail.com or call 241-0592.

JESTER UNCORKED - Wine lovers of Jester, unite! Join our evergrowing group of wine lovers. Contact Glen Brown at 610-504-8999 or jesterhoa_board@att.net.

JESTER MOMMIES - We're the Jester group for moms who would like to get to know other neighborhood moms. We go to local restaurants or enjoy evening activities nearby, usually without our kids. Interested in the next outing? Contact Suzi Brown Paulsen at oksuzi@hotmail.com.

JESTER PAGE TURNERS - Check out the Jester Page Turners, a neighborhood book group that meets the second Wednesday evening of each month. Contact Nicky Shore at Shorenm@gmail.com.

LADIES NIGHT OUT - Kick back and have some fun with girlfriends from the neighborhood of all ages! Events include appetizer potlucks at neighborhood homes and excursions to area restaurants. Contact Teresa Gouldie at tgouldie@gmail.com or 512-751-8000.

NETWORKING GROUP - Are you a resident who owns a business or provides a service? Build your business by referral! One individual or company per professional category. Contact Diana Miller at 512-496-0777 or diana0777@att.net.

TEXAS HOLD'EM GROUP - Join the fun and play tournament style Texas Hold'em. We meet once a month. Contact David Singerman to be put on the list. Email dsingerman@gmail.com or call 512-207-0930.

WELCOME COMMITTEE - Darla Rowan and JoAnn Welles are co-chairs of this committee, which is designed to welcome new residents to Jester, including newborns. Volunteer to help by emailing JoAnn at joann-welles@sbcglobal.net or call her at 346-0349

WOODWORKING GROUP - Join our woodworking group to share knowledge and techniques! Contact John Parker at 345-6991 or JParker84@austin.rr.com



(Nature Watch, Continued from Cover)

tail, often calling as the glide from tree to tree. They feed on insects, nuts (especially pecans), berries, acorns, and a wide variety of other food items, and only sometimes cache food in bark crevices.

East of the Balcones Escarpment, the Red-bellied Woodpecker (Merlanerpes carolinus) has a similarly patterned black and white barred back, barred central tail feathers, and a namesake small

reddish patch or tinge on the belly that is often hard to spot. The males have a solid red crown and nape, while the females only have a red nape. Common in open woodlands, suburban areas, and parks, these woodpeckers are often seen hitching along branches and tree trunks, sometimes wedging large nuts into bark crevices and whacking them into manageable pieces using their pointed beaks.

All woodpecker species use simple calls and drumming against tree trunks to



Red-bellied Woodpecker (adult female)

communicate. While the drumming is not a sure-fire way to identify a particular species, it can help you locate an individual bird, and maybe even a flock or descent of woodpeckers!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin. rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!





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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

We're having a winter slowdown in deliveries but still delivered 5 Welcome Bags to new neighbors in Jester.

We met Joe and Phyllis who now live on the 6600 block of Lakewood Point Cove. They've been traveling for the past year but were from Oklahoma prior to that. We met them on a beautiful day and enjoyed the view from their deck. They deserved a much needed break from unpacking. We also met Stan on the 7300 block of Halbert Drive. His wife Beth couldn't join him immediately because, as a teacher, she had a semester to finish up in New Jersey. She is now there and enjoying their recently renovated house.

We also met Jay and Maria with their 2 teen aged boys Brooks

and Drew. They moved in to their new residence on the 7100 block of Foxtree Cove. Cameron and Christine just moved into their new house near the end of Jester Wild Drive. Walter, with his children, Lily, Lucinda and Scott moved into the 8100 block of Chardonnay Cove.

If you live near any of these new residents, please stop by and introduce yourself! Also, please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 346-0349 or joann-welles@sbcglobal.net if you've moved to Jester lately and we haven't welcomed you officially. We may have tried to deliver a bag to you but not found you home.



Cameron and Christine on Jester Wild



Walter and Lily on Chardonnay Cove



Joe and Phyllis on Lakewood Point Cove



Jester Estates Stork Report

Congratulations! Let us help celebrate... email info on the arrival of your little one to diana0777@att.net.







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It's Poker Night in Jester! The 1st
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Snacks are fine. Drinking is OK but please don't drive home.

Each game is limited to 10 players.

Contact David Singerman dsingerman@gmail.com or Cell: 207-0930



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Featured Smile Makeover of the Month by Dr. Lance Loveless



After





Before

After





Before

Sometimes a smile makeover can be accomplished by changing only four teeth. This patient was unhappy with her "fake" looking two front crowns. She didn't like the gray line along the gumline. She also didn't like how she showed too much of her gums when she smiled, and teeth next to her front teeth were too small and crooked. Even though braces or invisalign would've solved the crooked teeth issue, they would not have addressed her other remaining issues. She decided to do a "laser gum lift", teeth whitening and 4 porcelain restorations. In only two visits, she had her smile makeover completed. She no longer has to hide her smile, in fact now she smiles even bigger.

These types of changes can be life altering. This is why I got into dentistry, to help people. I love what I do, and I love the fact that I can change lives daily through cosmetic dentistry! Lance E. Loveless, DDS, FAGD, LVIF

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION!

Bunko Group Celebrates Mardi Gras!





Unable to celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans February 5, Rossi Byrne brought Mardi Gras to Jester. In her festively decorated home, she greeted us at the door with fluted glasses filled with a historical drink called French 75. After a delicious dinner and lively games of Bunko, we departed, once again reminded why our community is tres magnifique.

OPEN HOUSE January 27th from 5:30-7:30 PM at River Place Country Club
February 21st from 11 AM-2 PM at School in the Hills Steiner Ranch
March 5th from 5:30-7:30 PM at River Place Country Club

Discover School in the Hills

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Carol Philipson 7502 Clematis Cv Austin, TX 78750



Include type of pet, name, male or female, description, age, medications, veterinarian's name, whether it is microchipped, and pet owner's name, address, and contact information.

For lost or found pets, call 338-1519

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Visit Jester Homeowner's Association website and sign up to receive pertinent neighborhood email alerts. www.JesterNeighbors.com Community Registration Code: 3328 -

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