

# LONG CANYON

## Gazette

MARCH 2015

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE LONG CANYON

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

## A DESCENT OF WOODPECKERS

# NATUREWATCH

*by Jim and Lynne Weber*



*Ladder-backed Woodpecker  
(adult male)*

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

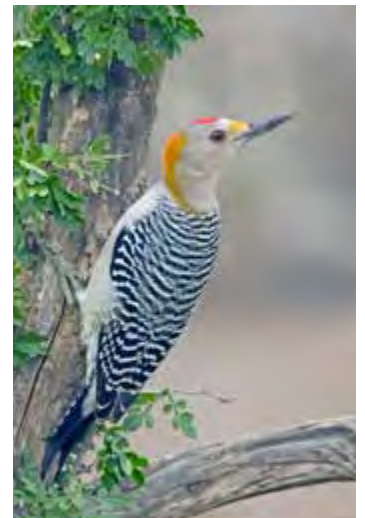
have small barbs that curve inward towards the tree, allowing the bird to use its tail as a brace. Its feet are 'zygodactyl', meaning two toes facing forward and two toes facing backward, which helps support it when clinging to vertical surfaces. While all woodpecker bills are chisel-shaped, differences 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 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.' Ladder-backed 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 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 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



*Golden-fronted Woodpecker  
(adult male)*

*Continued on page 7*

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181  
Article Submissions..... longcanyon@peelinc.com  
Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

### ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Long Canyon Gazette. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Long Canyon residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. 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 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**Personal classifieds** (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Long Canyon residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail longcanyon@peelinc.com

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

## VHS BAND & VISION STARTS MULCH SALE

*FREE Delivery in Vandegrift Zip Codes March 27 and 28*



The Texas State Champion Vandegrift HS Band and Vision is helping Four Points residents get their homes ready for Spring with their biggest fundraiser of the year: Mulch Sales! Online sales of the mulch have begun – visit: [vhsband/fundraising/mulch.com](http://vhsband/fundraising/mulch.com). Students will also be visiting residents door to door from January 8th to March 8th to personally take orders - The Deadline to place orders is March 8. FREE delivery is available in all Vandegrift HS feeder neighborhoods including the following zip codes: 78726, 78730, 78732 and parts of 78714 and 78750. All other areas and zip codes must pick up at a local location provided at later date.

Deliveries are scheduled for March 27 and March 28. The mulch is 100% Organic and comes in bags of 2 cubic feet. Two types are available: Black Velvet Hardwood and Hardwood Bark. There is a discount for cash and check sales.

*Online Pricing is as follows:*

5-26 bags @ \$4.90 per bag | 27-51 bags @ \$4.65 per bag  
52 bags (one pallet) @ \$240 per pallet

Contact your friendly neighborhood Band/Vision Student to get the cash and check discount!

*Cash & Check Pricing is as follows:*

5-26 bags @ \$4.75 per bag | 27-51 bags @ \$4.50 per bag  
52 bags (one pallet) @ \$230 per pallet

There is a minimum order is 5 Bags. Students and parents of VHS Band participate in all aspects of this fundraiser from order taking to delivery. All funds raised go towards band equipment, marching show design, scholarships, competition fees & supplies, transportation, and uniforms.

For more information, please contact:

[mulch@vhsband.com](mailto:mulch@vhsband.com)

Online orders:

[Vhsband/fundraising/mulch.com](http://Vhsband/fundraising/mulch.com)



**We are accepting  
new patients...  
Call now to  
schedule!**



7300 RANCH ROAD 2222, BLDG 5, STE 216

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN JESTER NEAR ANYTIME FITNESS

COMPLIMENTARY TAKE-HOME WHITENING FOR NEW PATIENTS (\$299 VALUE)

[WWW.RHONDASTOKLEYDDS.COM](http://WWW.RHONDASTOKLEYDDS.COM)

**512-343-9000**



"I am a full time professional, fortunate enough to be associated with one of the most technologically advanced real estate companies in the U.S., but I am also a broker who can adapt, make changes and get the job done with the flexibility of a small broker. We do not sell more homes than anyone in our market, but you will not find anyone who will workharder, or more professionally to get you the most money for your home."



Better Home,  
Better Garden,  
Better Agent.

---

**5-Star Award Winner in Texas Monthly**  
**Ranked in Top 100 of all Austin agents**  
*Recognized in the June 2014 Texas Monthly as*  
*a 5-Star Realtor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year in a Row!*

---

Direct: **512-698-3366**  
**bfinnessey@gmail.com**  
**RealEstateinSteinerRanch.com**

**- Licensed in Texas**



# NOW

IS THE **RIGHT** TIME TO TALK TO A REAL ESTATE AGENT

# NOW

IS THE **RIGHT** TIME TO LIST YOUR HOME

# NOW

IS THE **RIGHT** TIME TO CALL  
**BRANDY FINNESSEY**

## DO NOT GET **LEFT** BEHIND!



## Four Points Homework Help

*Could your child benefit from one-on-one homework assistance?*



Four Points Homework Help is a volunteer-based organization that offers free tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-7 pm at Cups & Cones in Steiner Ranch.

Sign up for tutoring times, find more information, or get in touch with us at:

[www.fourpointshomeworkhelp.org](http://www.fourpointshomeworkhelp.org) [4ptshmwkhelp@gmail.com](mailto:4ptshmwkhelp@gmail.com)

Sign up now for a 30 or 60 minute session!

FPHH is staffed by NHS & PALS students from Vandegrift High School

## 17th Annual Wilderness Run & Walk



Friends of the  
Parks of Lakeway

Saturday, April 18/  
Hamilton Greenbelt  
I in Lakeway /  
Registration: 8:00  
AM / Event: 9:00

AM

Enjoy a morning outdoors in Hamilton Greenbelt I of Lakeway! This FREE noncompetitive run and walk will begin on Saturday, April 18 at 9:00AM. Participants will run or walk either 3 miles or 5 miles through the scenic trail system of the Hamilton Greenbelt 1, located across from the Lakeway Justice Center. The course winds along canyon walls and high cliffs, across fern covered creeks, and through tall native tree forests. Refreshments will be available at the start/finish areas and at various locations along the course.

You can register online by visiting [www.lakewayfop.org](http://www.lakewayfop.org) or

by picking up an entry application at the Lakeway Activity Center and at the registration boxes at the entrances to City Park, The Canyonlands, Hamilton Greenbelt I and Hamilton Greenbelt II. Or register on event day between 8:00AM to 9:00AM. Commemorative T-Shirts will be available for \$15 with all proceeds from sales and donations going towards our ongoing conservation efforts of the trail systems in Lakeway.

This is a great opportunity for runners and walkers, as well as families with children in strollers and dogs on leashes, to enjoy an outing in the greenbelt and meet other outdoor enthusiasts. For more information regarding Friends of the Parks or the Wilderness Run & Walk, please contact director & co-chair Sheryl Kelly at 512 997 8880. Sign up today for a run or walk you won't forget!



# BRIDGEVIEW DENTAL

MODERN FAMILY DENTAL CARE

*14 years and counting!*

**Same Great Location in the  
Davenport Village Shopping Center**

**3801 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.**

**(360 and Westlake Dr.)**

**Suite J-240 Austin 78746**

**At the bottom of the hill**

**across from Maudie's**

**(512) 347-8299**

[www.BridgeViewDental.com](http://www.BridgeViewDental.com)

**Lance Loveless, DDS  
General Dentist**  
*FAGD (Fellow Academy of General Dentistry)  
LVIF (Las Vegas Institute Fellow)*



## *Featured Smile Makeover of the Month* by Dr. Lance Loveless



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

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!**

**NOT AVAILABLE  
ONLINE**

At no time will any source be allowed to use the Long Canyon Gazette 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 Long Canyon Gazette is exclusively for the private use.

DISCLAIMER: 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](http://www.peelinc.com)





*Continued from Cover*

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 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](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com).

rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com) if you enjoy reading these articles!



*Red-bellied Woodpecker (adult female)*



## Currently Accepting Student Enrollment!

### Why we are Austin's best kept secret...

- Low Teacher/Student ratios
- Compassionate, Professional Teachers Committed to Your Child's Success!
- An Educational, Theme-Based Curriculum
- New Developmental-Based Infant Curriculum
- Special Events & Field Trips
- Art Studio, Computer Lab, Library & Gymnasium

### Convenient Enrichment Activities:

- Spanish • Little Wing • Martial Arts • Gym Station • Dance Adventures

STEINER RANCH	NORTHWEST AUSTIN	WESTLAKE
4308 N. Quinlan Park Rd. Suite 100 Austin, TX 78732 512.266.6130	6507 Jester Boulevard Building 2 Austin, TX 78750 512.795.8300	8100 Bee Caves Rd Austin, TX 78746 512.329.6633



## JOIN US FOR GOLF AND A GREAT CAUSE!

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 29th  
**TIME:** 11:00 am Registration, 1:00 pm Start  
**LOCATION:** Flintrock Falls Golf Course  
**FORMAT:** 4-person scramble  
**COST:** \$165 per golfer\*  
*\*Includes lunch, dinner, hat & swag.*

**REGISTER: [WWW.TINYCH.ORG/GOLF](http://WWW.TINYCH.ORG/GOLF)**

Join us for the 7th annual Colin's Hope Classic charity golf tournament. Enjoy a beautiful course, lunch, dinner, a chance to win a Lexus or RV, and great prizes.

Gather your friends, grab your clubs, and help us reach our pledge raising goals and spread awareness about drowning prevention.

# We envision a WORLD where CHILDREN DO NOT DROWN

**Questions? Contact:**  
Kim Flasch: [kim.flasch@colinshope.org](mailto:kim.flasch@colinshope.org)  
Sue Hart: [sue.hart@colinshope.org](mailto:sue.hart@colinshope.org)

## WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG



PEEL, INC.


308 Meadowlark St. South  
Lakeway, TX 78734

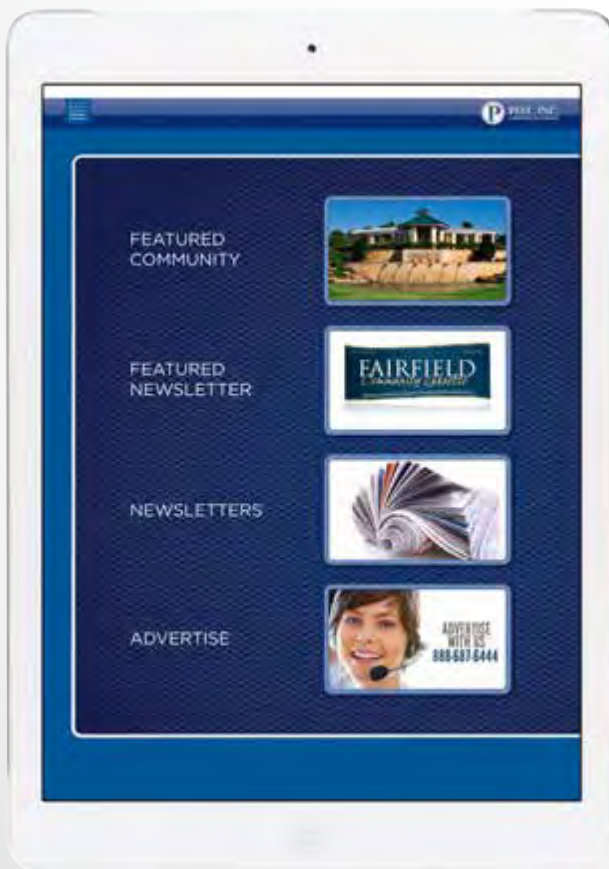
PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PEEL, INC.

LY

# Your Community at Your Fingertips



Download the Peel, Inc. App Available  
for Your iPhone and iPad 



[www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)  
512.263.9181