

# The FAIR OAKS Gazette

July 2015

Volume 5 Issue 7



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

## From the Mayor's Desk...

*"Everyday is a Good Day in Fair Oaks Ranch"©*

### **HOT AND DRY DAYS AHEAD?**

Summer officially arrived June 21st, the longest day of the year. How will our temperature change? Hmm...it will get hotter. Hopefully not as humid though as the Spring months have been. The rainfall for the San Antonio/regional area is over 28" as of this writing. The historical annual rainfall average in non-drought years hovers around 32-34 inches depending on the informational sources.

### **NATIONAL MOSQUITO CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK (JUNE 21-27, 2015)**

With continuing rain spurts at this time, the grounds are extremely saturated. Many of the lakes, rivers, and creeks still can create flood situations if overflowing again. There is standing water everywhere. Mosquitoes love standing water yet each of us can help manage the unwanted mosquito population. You may find these suggestions helpful to minimize mosquito populations moving in!

Homeowners can take the following steps to prevent mosquito breeding on their own property:

- Destroy or dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water. Do not allow water to accumulate in the saucers of flowerpots, cemetery urns or in pet dishes for more than 2 days.
- Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures, or on flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or eliminate puddles that remain for several days.

- Change the water in birdbaths and wading pools at least once a week and stock ornamental pools with top feeding predacious minnows. Known as mosquito fish, these minnows are about 1 - 1-1/2 inches in length and can be purchased or native fish can be seined from streams and creeks locally. Ornamental pools may be treated with biorational larvicides [Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. israelensis (Bti) or S-methoprene (IGR) containing products] under certain circumstances. Commercial products "Mosquito Dunks" and "Mosquito Bits" containing Bti can be purchased at many hardware/garden stores for homeowner use. Wellmark International, a division of Central Life Sciences, has developed Pre-Strike Mosquito Torpedo that kills developing mosquitoes using insect growth regulator (IGR) technology. Like Mosquito Dunks, Pre-Strike can be found at many home/garden and pet specialty stores.
- Fill or drain puddles, ditches and swampy areas, and either remove, drain or fill tree holes and stumps with mortar. These areas may be treated with Bti or methoprene products also.
- Eliminate seepage from cisterns, cesspools, and septic tanks.
- Eliminate standing water around animal watering troughs. Flush livestock water troughs twice a week.
- Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to drain the water.
- Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.
- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make Fair Oaks Gazette possible. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 20th of the month prior to the issue.

## ARTICLE INFO

The Fair Oaks Gazette is mailed monthly to all Fair Oaks Ranch area residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for the Fair Oaks Gazette, please email it to [fairoaksranch@peelinc.com](mailto:fairoaksranch@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCIES NUMBERS

EMERGENCY ..... 911  
Fire..... 911  
Ambulance ..... 911  
Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department.....210-698-0990  
Animal Control.....210-698-0990

### SCHOOLS

Boerne ISD .....[www.boerne-isd.net](http://www.boerne-isd.net)  
Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary .....210-698-1616

### UTILITIES

Allied Waste Services - Garbage & Recycling.....210-648-5222  
AT&T - Telephone.....800-464-7928  
CPSEnergy.....(new service) 210-353-2222  
.....(service trouble or repairs) 210-353-4357  
Fair Oaks Ranch Utilities - Water.....210-698-7685  
GVTC - Cable & Telephone .....800-367-4882  
Pedernales Electric Co-op.....888-554-4732  
Time Warner - Cable.....210-244-0500

### OTHER

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607 E. Blanco. Rd. - Boerne, TX .....830-249-2414  
.....(delivery info, stops, fivds, ect.) 830-249-9303  
5837 De Zavala Rd - San Antonio, TX.....210-641-0248

*From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)*

10. Source: [www.mosquito.org/control](http://www.mosquito.org/control)

## VOLUNTEER SPIRIT OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

How does a "ranch" become a community and then a city? Through the community spirit of residential volunteers.

Over the past few years, many of the long-term volunteers have relocated. Yet, we are blessed to have energetic and enthusiastic new residents moving into Fair Oaks Ranch. Many read the VISIONS to REALTY history book by Gary Younglove (25th Anniversary book on City of Fair Oaks Ranch) and expressed their interest to engage with the City's needs today and tomorrow. And, the City wants to provide opportunities for you to engage! Choose your areas of interest; choose your preferred volunteering schedule.

In this issue of the FO Gazette, you will find a Volunteer/Intern Pool Application. Complete the application and return it to City Hall is the first phase to becoming an engaged volunteer. You can (1) scan & email, (2) fax, (3) hand-deliver or (4) use standard mail. Contact info below. Although there is no deadline to submit an application, I encourage you consider sooner than later as the new fiscal year approaches, we anticipate engaging volunteers! Also, area Scout Troop leaders are welcome to submit as some projects may be mutually benefiting. Fill out your application today!

## REMINDER: FOR'S LANDSCAPE WATERING MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

The City has two water providers in the City: FOR Utility (FORU) and San Antonio Water System (SAWS). FORU provides for the majority of the City. SAWS services a portion near IH 10 to include properties off FO Parkway and Dietz-Elkhorn. Between the various news sources (newspaper, television, social media, etc.) there is some confusion over landscape watering schedules.

There is no change in the year round once-a-week or hours in the watering schedule for FOR Utility customers. The ordinance specifies: Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers, soaker hoses, or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to once a week between the hours of midnight to 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. to midnight on the authorized watering day according to the following schedule (No weekend watering):

Street Address Ending in:

Authorized Watering Day:

0 or 1

Monday

2 or 3

Tuesday

4 or 5

Wednesday

6 or 7

Thursday

8 or 9

Friday

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# FAIR OAKS RANCH

*From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 2)*

## RECENT CITY COUNCIL ACTIVITY

June 3, 2015 Special Meeting 9:00am

The Leadership Retreat held late 2011 initiated the 8-Year Strategic Plan 2012-2020 to include a separate activity/project list. As mentioned in last month's FO Gazette issue, today (1) ten out of 26 are completed, (2) five are encapsulated in the Street Bond, (3) three others-technologies, FOR/IH 10 Bridge - in process for completion, and (4) another three items tied to the Public Safety Facility leaving five activities/projects to pursue.

The Council Special Meeting held June 3, 2015 concentrated on education with a lengthy presentation and discussion lead by the City Attorney, Charles Zeck, on Governance, one of the remaining five topics of the 2012-2020 Strategic Plan. The presentation included both Home Rule and General Law. Fair Oaks Ranch is currently a General Law city getting its authority from Texas Local Government Code. Home Rule is another Governance process provided by State of Texas. This presentation highlighted statutory tools available in managing growth and development such as Development Agreements, Planning & Zoning, Utility CCN, etc. The Council engaged in discussion, clarifying questions, etc. From my perspective, it was an excellent exchange of information, explanation, etc.

A potential second monthly regular Council Meeting was presented and discussed versus random Special Meetings.

The second meeting (1st Thursday of each month) would allow: (1) more consistent schedule planning and calendars; (2) early introduction and in-depth information provided; (3) greater opportunity to share questions and concerns with staff, presenters/etc.; (4) "double" transparency; and (5) this meeting is more "workshop-oriented". If there is no business, then it can be cancelled yet everyone knows it is on the calendar and plans their schedules accordingly. Other conversations included potential committees/work groups, available informational resources and requesting legal opinions.

June 18, 2015 Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm

Council officially approved a second Regular Council meeting monthly: 1st Thursday of each month at 9:30am City Hall. July 2nd kicks off this second monthly meeting! In addition, Council approved Alderman Al Schmidt to serve as the City's Mayo Pro Tem for one-year term. The Mayor Pro Tem fills in when the Mayor is unable to attend meeting, etc. Alderman Glenn Damstra was appointed to the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee to serve as the Council Liaison.

The Texas State Comptroller's office encourages a high standard for "financial transparency online" from local governments such as Fair Oaks Ranch through its Leadership Circle Program. The program was initiated in December 2009 and has four standard levels today – Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Fair Oaks Ranch received its first Leadership Circle- Bronze- May 2010 and May 2015 received the Platinum Leadership Circle Award under the guidance of Kristin Akers. You will find the city's financials online at [www.fairoaksranchtx.org](http://www.fairoaksranchtx.org) under Financials.

## SIGNING OFF...

The time has come to finish this month's article. July 4th brings families and friends together to recognize our country's independence. Everyone enjoy and be safe as you share in the celebration of independence.

Thank you, Peel Inc. for this opportunity to share news with our residents!

Respectfully,  
Cheryl Landman,  
Mayor

[mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org](mailto:mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org)  
City of Fair Oaks Ranch  
7286 Dietz Elkhorn, FOR 78015  
Phone: 210-698-0900 or 866-258-2505  
Fax: 210-698-3565

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**Before** **After**

## TREES & FOUNDATIONS

Very sadly, many trees are removed as a result of fancy-talking, old-fashioned scapegoating. For example, the architect, engineer and builder of a three-story mansion in the Olmos Basin region, were adamant in a court case I served as an expert witness in, that an Ash tree had single-handedly buckled the foundation they had designed and built in less than five years. The facts of this case and almost all foundation failures in our region are these - that a major drought causes severe contraction of the clay soil and rare, but severe flooding episodes that cause rapid expansion of the clay, both of which directly cause foundation movement and fracture. Further, the size of the house and the depth of the clay soil on that lot begs for an explanation for why the top industry practice of installing concrete piers under the foundation was not utilized.

Crucial to understanding a tree's benefit to a property, one must understand that the greatest catalyst of soil moisture dissipation is not a bunch of thirsty trees, but rather the sun. Even though trees are taking up water, the root zone under their canopy stay moist for much longer than soil exposed to full sunlight. Therefore, well-placed trees around the house help to keep the soil from contracting quite as fast. Along with proper water dispersion during floods, and occasional use of drip systems when in a serious drought – moderating the swells and constrictions of the soil

will keep your foundation in good condition. I also strongly recommend using a rock shelf as a base for your foundation or at least pouring piers down to one, and using root barrier shields if any trees exist or will be planted within 50" of the home.

Most hill country home foundations are quite large and even a grove of trees cannot move your foundation. If your foundation develops cracks – that tree will put root hairs into those crack and manipulate it till they get bigger and bigger. So yes, it is correct that trees damage foundations; yet, it is the expansion and contraction of the soil that is the precipitating underlining cause.

Trees can be the primary causes of damage to: sidewalks, driveways, pump house foundations, etc. The significant square footage difference, depth of concrete, sometimes the quality of the concrete, and proximity of species that tend to have higher and larger surface roots can and almost certainly will mean trouble with trees raising, cracking, shifting, etc. these type of concrete structures. If these do occur – there are various options beside tree removal. Shaving down bulge at concrete seam, cutting root(s), applying a tree growth regulator, removing concrete, an alternative design, etc.

Questions or comment this article or previous articles have generated, may be directed to me at: [kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com](mailto:kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com) or call (210) 279-6969 , (830) 454-4083.



# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## Citizen Engagement: Volunteer/Intern Pool Application Form

City of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas

7286 Dietz Elkhorn, Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015

Office: 210-698-0900

[www.fairoaksranchtx.org](http://www.fairoaksranchtx.org)

### PERSONAL INFORMATION *Please Print*

pg.1

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult (18yrs+) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Landline: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell / Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION** (circle last year completed) High School: 1 2 3 4 College: 1 2 3 4 Where \_\_\_\_\_ Grad: 1 2 3 4 Where \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Work Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently employed: Yes / No Full-Time / Part-Time. Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Note Special Skills, Training, Interests or Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### VOLUNTEER / INTERN INFO

What are your Goals? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of work interests you? \_\_\_\_\_

Previous or present volunteer/Intern jobs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### AVAILABILITY

Preferred Days: M T W Th F S Preferred Working Range: 8:00am –12:00pm or 1:00pm – 5:00pm (Circle range)

Are you available for evening meetings or events if needed? Yes No Maybe Preferred Time Range? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information regarding your availability \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some volunteer needs may require lifting, bending, pushing, stooping or periods of standing.  
If you are unable to perform these functions, please let us know.

# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## SKILLS

pg.2

Please **CIRCLE** your skills and preferences:

1. **Computer Skills:** Microsoft Office Products, Other/Comment: \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Office Skills:** Filing, Phones, Scan, Organizing, Other/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Languages:** Speak    Read    Write (circle skill level) **What Language(s)?** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Writing:** Reports, Articles, Grants, Other/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Artistic Talents/Skills:** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Prefer individual or group work? Do Presentations? Provide Instructions?** (Circle your preferences)
7. **Other Skills/Comments** (Please list) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The Volunteer options below represent potential needs of City of Fair Oaks Ranch (CoFOR). By noting your preferences throughout this list, you are helping to match volunteers to their areas of interest as needed. There is no guarantee a volunteer placement is available when submitting your completed application; and, we understand that it doesn't mean you are available when called. Yet, you will officially be part of the CoFOR Volunteer Pool.*

**Please mark your area(s) of interest:\***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Administrative/Office Support                         | <input type="checkbox"/> City Special Events                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer-related projects                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Celebrations                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-computer duties  | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Workshops                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Historical Preservation/Archive Records               | <input type="checkbox"/> Leon Springs Volunteer Fire Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Outreach Projects                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> "Handy with Tools" City Projects       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Communication/Public Relations/Social Media           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor/Reading – FOR Elementary        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Domestic or Wildlife Animal Projects                  | <input type="checkbox"/> City Solid Waste (Household Garage)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Ad-hoc Advisory City Committee (Specific & Temporary) | <input type="checkbox"/> City Landscape                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvement Advisory (CIAC)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees/Oak Wilt                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Development District (MDD)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening/Xeriscape/Irrigation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Conservation (Natural Resources)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Drought Resistant                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Fine Arts Project                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> City Litter Clean-up Projects          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Internships (High School/College)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> City Solid Waste (Household Trash)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Volunteer Ideas? _____                               |   |

Established 05.28.2015

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION Provide three contacts please PRINT PLEASE

1. **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ph:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relation:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ph:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relation:** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ph:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relation:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*-- Edgar Allen (Founder of Easter Seals)*



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**Exit 546**

# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## LUTHERAN CHURCH DONATES TO BOERNE YMCA



Henry Schulte, Pastor of St John Lutheran Church in Boerne and Lem Sinclair, chairman of the wild game charity dinner, present a \$1,000.00 check for the YMCA scholarship fund to Paul Giguere, Executive Director of the Boerne Family YMCA, and Rezia Olsen, Director of Christian Activities. The check represents a portion of the net proceeds from the annual wild game charity dinner that is hosted each year by the members of the church and is held at the Kendall County fairgrounds the last Saturday in April.


Other local organizations receiving donations from the charity dinner were American Heritage Girls, Christian Job Corp, Children's Inn, Golfers for others, Habitat for Humanity, Boerne Community Coalition for Children, Kendall County Women's Shelter (walk a mile), New Life Treatment Center (Canyon Lake) Reel Recovery and Eagles Fight SA. Other donations were made to church disaster relief teams to purchase equipment to help clean up flood and tornado areas, provide clean drinking water and help with food resources to victims of disasters.

All total, approximately \$30,000 was distributed from this years Charity dinner. Cumulative giving from this charitable event for the past 15 years is in excess of \$300,000.00

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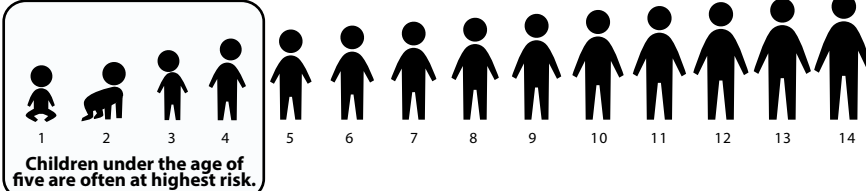
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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## THE DEDICATED RUNNER

*Submitted by Steve Bernhardt*

The heat is officially on in Central Texas, for the foreseeable future no matter the time of day it will be hot and often humid during our runs. Does this mean it's time to slow down, not run as often, or simply head indoors to the gym to run? If you are a dedicated runner none of these options sounds appealing. Fortunately none of them are necessary either if we take our time to understand how to acclimatize to the higher temperatures and take the necessary measures to run safely and comfortably under the bright Texas sun.

First, it takes our bodies about 7-10 days to begin to make the physiological adjustments needed to adapt to strenuous activity in the heat. Research has shown we can become fully acclimatized in 14-days based on spending at least one hour a day in the heat. During this time our blood plasma volume increases, sodium levels concentrate, and our core body temperature decreases. Keep in mind fitter runners usually adapt quicker, as well as younger runners often do better in the heat than older runners.

Next, dress properly to maximize evaporative heat loss. Wear clothing designed for running that does not hold moisture in the fabric (hydrophobic) and encourages evaporation. Our bodies cool as the heat is pulled away from us in our evaporating sweat. Avoid running in cotton as it holds the moisture in the fabric and makes wide scale evaporation nearly impossible. Running in a soaking wet cotton t-shirt is not cooling, it's basting. Also, don't forget a breathable hat to keep the sun off your head and sunglasses to fight off the negative effects of UV sunlight on your eyes.

Lastly, our sweat rate increases as our bodies adapt to the stress of running in higher temperatures, because of this we need to replenish our fluids in order to maintain our effort and vital bodily functions. Water is ok for shorter duration runs (30 minutes or less) but for longer efforts we need to add some electrolytes like sodium chloride, magnesium, and potassium. There are many well designed hydration products available that are tasty and effective, as well as several different ways to carry fluids while on your runs like a hand-held water bottle or waist belt. If you are worried about the comfort of carrying a bottle while running, trust me after a few days you'll hardly notice it and grow thankful for having it with you.

Just because it's hot and humid doesn't mean we have to stop doing what we love to do, run. Being patient and giving our bodies time to acclimatize is critical. Wearing the right clothing to protect ourselves for the sun and encourage evaporative cooling is a must. Fluid replacement in order to maintain proper hydration is necessary to avoid heat related illness due to overheating and dehydration. With care and attention to each of these areas you'll be on your way to accomplishing your running goals no matter what the Texas summer decides to throw at us.

## SUDOKU

8			5	6		4		
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1						2		7
		3	9				5	
5					3			4
		1			4			
			6	9				
6		7						
		4				1		2

View answers online at [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



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## IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

## NATUREWATCH

*by Jim and Lynne Weber*

For many of us, the outdoor magic and mystery of summer nights was best embodied by the blink of fireflies or 'lightning bugs', which are neither flies nor bugs, but beetles. With over 170 species of fireflies in North America, and about 36 of those species in Texas, fireflies fall into three main genera: the Photuris, Photinus, and the Pyracomena. The most common species in Texas is the Pennsylvania Firefly (*Photuris pennsylvanicus*), which ranges from the eastern U.S. to Kansas and into Texas.

Most likely to be spotted at night in fields and near wooded areas, the adult Pennsylvania Firefly's elytra (hardened forewings that form a protective covering over flight wings) are dark brown with yellowish margins and slanted stripes. The head is yellow around the sides and red in the middle, and their overall length is about half an inch. After mating, the female lays tiny, spherical eggs singly or in small groups in damp soil, around grass or moss, and they hatch in about 4 weeks. The larvae feed in the grass on slugs, snails, earthworms, and cutworms, and in this immature phase their light isn't visible unless they are turned over. They overwinter as larvae in small chambers within the ground, waiting for the spring months when they pupate and emerge in early summer as adult fireflies, giving them an average lifespan of approximately two years.

Firefly mating is dependent on the female seeing the distinct flashes of a mate-seeking male, and each must find the exact right blinking pattern in order to mate successfully. Males begin flying after dark, emitting yellow or yellow-green flashes, some flying above the tree canopy. Interestingly, ambient light

around a firefly's natural habitat decreases the chance it will find a mate. In order to rise to the challenge of producing offspring with artificial light around, fireflies must increase the intensity of the flashes they produce in order to be seen. This increased light emission decreases the stored energy supply in the firefly that would normally be used directly for reproduction. Artificial light also exposes the fireflies to nighttime predators, even when they are not blinking. This combination of effects from artificial light directly decreases the chance that fireflies will survive and mate.

Flashes of light can be emitted by both male and female fireflies, and can also be used for purposes other than mating. One additional use is to lure prey to them; in fact, females from the *Photuris* genus will often mimic the flashes of a female *Photinus* firefly, and a male *Photinus* that falls for it will quickly be devoured! Not all female fireflies are capable of flight, however, as some species are wingless and bear a strong resemblance to larvae rather than to adult males of the same species. Often, these types of fireflies are



referred to as 'glowworms'.

The abundance of fireflies has been decreasing over the years, greatly challenged by both the increasing presence of artificial light and the rapid development of our open fields and forests. As human light pollution and development continues to spread, fireflies just might disappear altogether, in a blink of an eye!

*Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.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!*

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