



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

August 2015

Volume 10, Issue 8

Jester's 4th of July Parade

by Social Chairman, Teresa Gouldie

Excited children and grandchildren of our Jester residents gathered at Jester Club for our annual 4th of July Parade, and they were a sight to behold! Dressed in patriotic red, white, and blue, they had decorated their bicycles, wagons, strollers, and even pets! Led by a colorfully decorated golf cart, they paraded down Jester Blvd, around Basil, and back to the club. Thanks to the people on the parade route who came out of their homes to cheer them on...the kiddos always love an audience!

Upon returning to the club, the children realized the fun had just begun! Awaiting them were a variety of activities including a ball toss, coloring sheets, and the always popular prize walk. Various prizes included red, white & blue erasers, sunglasses, necklaces, and visors. Parents and children alike donned colorful hats for photos and a great time was had by all.

As always, this event would not have been possible without the efforts of many people. A big thank you goes out to our neighborhood volunteers (some were recruited at the event itself!): Eva Wissner, Anne and Terry Moore and children Kevin, Kaitlin, Sean, Caroline and Liam, Jenny Dávila and daughter Arianna, Mike Parker, Jon Massengale, Chris Lenfest, Casey O'Shea, Bo Schwarz, Roger Skidmore, Alex Ramirez and Brett Arnold. A special thanks goes to Terri Milam and Jester Club for providing the location and Billy Gouldie for donating a golf cart to use.

If you would like to volunteer for our Halloween event, please call me at 512-751-8000. We always need help in preparing the week before, as well as assistance on the day of the event itself. Any bit of time you could spare would be greatly appreciated!



(Continued on Page 11)

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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 ever-growing group of wine lovers. Contact Melissa Adams at 512-415-4361.

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 Debra Ellsworth at 512-627-5323 or debra@ellsworthteam.com.

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 512-484-7588.

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

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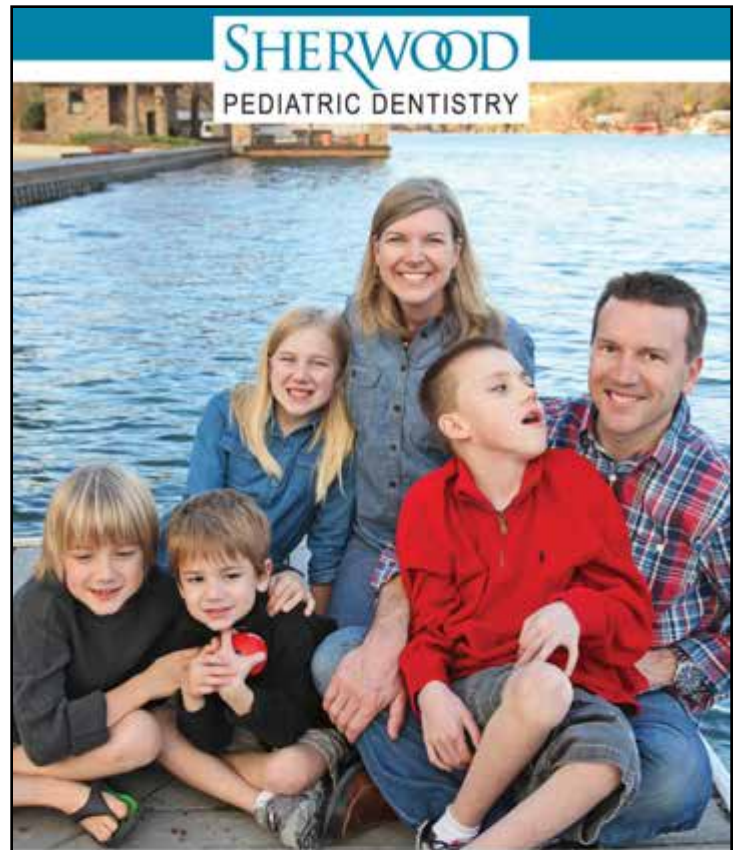
by Gayland Williams

On Friday July 10th friends of Caroline McChrystal gathered to dedicate a memorial bench in her honor in front of Jester Club. Caroline was killed in a car accident last September and has been greatly missed by all that knew her. Because Caroline loved to take walks in the neighborhood, her friends wanted to provide a nice shady place where all could rest when they are out walking.

Caroline started the Jester Book Club and served as the president for nearly 14 years. She was also a member of the Jester Bunko Group. Friends from those groups have gathered funds to have a custom white oak bench made to honor her memory. Dan Kagay was the artist who designed, built, and installed the bench. The memorial plate reads "Sit, Rest, and Read Awhile - In Loving Memory of Caroline McChrystal".



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Welcome Committee News

The Welcome Committee delivered 5 Welcome Bags last month, but we were unable to deliver another 5 because we didn't find the new residents home. Lots of vacations and activities during the summer!

This month 3 of the new residents were originally from overseas, but have lived in the US for several years. One family wasn't new to Jester but moved just a few blocks away.

Our deliveries were to

Avisar and Lital with their children Noga and Alon and their adorable dog Sweetie moved to the 8100 block of Amelia Cove from Westover Hills.

Raphael and Svetla with their children Annika (5 years old) and Sarah (1) moved to Quill Leaf Cove.

Andrew and Tanya, with their daughter Sasha and son Adrian moved to Midpark Court.

Chris and Kelly with their daughter Olimpia (2), 2 dogs and a cat moved to Ligustrum Cove

Laura and Brian with their daughters Anna and Emily moved from Quill Leaf Cove to the 6500 block of Winterberry.

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 HYPERLINK "mailto:joannnn-welles@sbcglobal.net" 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.

Jester Estates Stork Report

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



Before and After What A Difference!

Here is a great example of how to reduce your lawn and increase your habitat while offering more protection for your trees with less mowing and water. Notice the before and after of this transformed wildlife habitat on Jester Blvd. For more information contact:

Dale Bulla, dale-bulla@pobox.com or 512-345-9528


(Continued on Page 6)



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TRAVELING TARANTULAS

NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Relatively common throughout Texas, the Tarantula (*Aphonopelma* sp.) is Texas' heaviest and largest spider. Typically, the head and legs are dark brown, and the abdomen is brownish-black. Coloration varies between individuals as well as between the 14 different species found in Texas. Identification of individual species is difficult, however, and is often performed only on mature males under a microscope.

Tarantulas are typically found in grasslands and semi-open areas, and use burrows, natural cavities under stones or fallen logs, spaces under loose tree bark, and even old rodent holes as shelters. They are also capable of digging their own burrows, and often line them with webbing, placing a few strands across the front to help detect passing prey. Laying several hundred eggs in a hammock-like web constructed inside the burrow, females will guard them until they hatch. Females have lived in captivity for over 25 years, while males rarely live over two or three months after reaching maturity.

Like many animals, tarantulas molt their exoskeletons several times as they grow. The skin on the hard upper shell and abdomen splits, and the tarantula begins the process of squeezing through the opening. Most of the time, tarantulas molt while positioned on their backs, twitching, stretching, and kicking until the entire exoskeleton has been cast off. After they have wriggled free of their old skin, this discarded exoskeleton is a perfect replica of the spider, minus its head and fangs.

Other insects such as crickets, beetles, grasshoppers, cicadas, and caterpillars form the basic diet of the tarantula. They inject their prey with a poison when they bite, which liquefies the prey's insides, making it easier to ingest. While they can climb, they are usually restricted to the ground, where the majority of their prey is found. The hairiness and large size of tarantulas often evokes concern, but the bites of Texas species are not serious to humans. Tarantulas maneuver quickly to face whatever disturbs them, often raising up on their hind legs and stretching out their front legs in a threatening posture. They have also been observed rapidly brushing the top of their abdomen with their hind legs to dislodge hairs that can be used to irritate the attacker's eyes or skin.

For a few weeks late in the summer or early fall, one of the most spectacular spider events occurs in Texas. Not well understood,



Tarantula

this phenomenon is often called a migration, but it may be related more to mating rather than seasonally motivated movement. Males actively wander to seek out females, and can travel 50 miles in search of a mate. Populations seem to follow a boom and bust cycle, depending on weather patterns and the availability of food, but a good year can be a sight to behold if summer rains have been plentiful. While the males are out searching, females wait in their burrows for a suitor to appear. Larger and more robust, the female does not always accept any male that comes along, and will kill and eat males that are deemed unsuitable.

As formidable as they may seem, tarantulas are not without their own enemies. In fact, in late spring and early summer they are routinely hunted by female Tarantula Hawks as food for their larvae. Belonging to a group of spider wasps in the genera *Pepis* and *Hemipepsis*, tarantula hawks are large, 2-inch long wasps with iridescent blue-black bodies and bright, rust-colored wings. This vivid color combination is a form of



Tarantula Hawk

aposematism or warning coloration, a type of advertising signal to both predator and prey that these species are potentially harmful. These wasps have the ability to deliver a powerful sting, and their long legs have hooked claws for grappling their victims.

Flying low over the ground, the female tarantula hawk will find a tarantula and sting it, which paralyzes the spider but does not kill it. She then drags the inert tarantula into her burrow or transports it to a specially prepared nest, where she lays a single egg on the spider's abdomen, then seals the opening to the burrow as she leaves. When the wasp larva hatches, it creates a small hole and enters the spider's abdomen, where it feeds voraciously, avoiding vital organs to keep the spider alive as long as possible. After several weeks the spider dies, the larva pupates, and then it emerges from the spider's abdomen to continue its lifecycle.

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!

Jester Homeowner's Association Website!

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July Bunko Roundup

by Pam Lehmann

Our July cowgirl Bunko round-up was minus the doggies, but chuck wagon cook Peggy served up BBQ with lots of fixins, including a peach cobbler. Couldn't get much more American than that? It was boot stompin fun...



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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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August Events

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Aug. 1 - Jan. 10	Ladies and Gentlemen...The Beatles! <i>Exhibit featuring more than 400 pieces of memorabilia</i>	LBJ Public Library lbjlibrary.org
Aug. 1 - 16	Guys and Dolls <i>presented by Summer Stock Austin</i>	thelongcenter.org
Aug. 1 - 16	Into the Woods <i>presented by Summer Stock Austin</i>	thelongcenter.org
Aug. 5 - 14	Theater-For-All Day Camp <i>Children will learn a song and dance to perform for parents</i>	The Long Center thelongcenter.org
Aug. 9	Shania Twain ROCK THIS COUNTRY Tour	uterwincenter.com
Aug. 13	Nitty Gritty Dirt Band <i>Legendary country rock and American roots band</i>	One World Theatre oneworldtheatre.org
Aug. 15	Back to School Bash <i>100+ exhibits to learn more about services & programs to help students enjoy a safe & successful school year</i>	Palmer Events Center austinsisd.org/bash
Aug. 15	Sam Smith with special guest Gavin James <i>English singer-songwriter and 4-time Grammy winner</i>	Erwin Center uterwincenter.com
Aug. 19 - 23	Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus: LEGENDS	uterwincenter.com
Aug. 20	Kansas - <i>Legendary rock group</i>	thelongcenter.org
Aug. 23	Austin Arts Block Party - Free Event <i>Featuring performances, a Kid's Zone and exclusive tours</i>	The Long Center thelongcenter.org
Aug. 23	Austin Chronicle Hot Sauce Festival <i>Catch the fever - join us for fun, music, and hot sauce!</i>	Fiesta Gardens 454-5766 austinchronicle.com/hotsauce
Aug. 28 - 30	Fall Home & Garden Show <i>Shop for all of your home improvement and gardening needs</i>	Convention Center austinhomelandgardenshow.com
Aug. 29	Kelly Clarkson <i>Global superstar and Grammy award winner</i>	Austin360 Amphitheater Austin360amphitheater.com

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