

Canyon Creek CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER 2015

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 9

THE CANYON CREEK CHRONICLE

*A Newsletter
for the Canyon Creek
Community*

The Canyon Creek Chronicle is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Canyon Creek residents. Each newsletter will be 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 team, social group, etc., and would like to submit an article for the newsletter, you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com. Personal news (announcements, accolades/honors/celebrations, etc.) are also welcome as long as they are from area residents.

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HOPE 4 MINDS

supporting kids after brain injury

Hope4Minds' Second "Battle of the Youth Bands" Lets Kids Sling Their Six-Strings and Raise Money for Hope4Minds, Offering Hope and Support to Kids with an Acquired Brain Injury

Rock on and play hard for a good cause this fall at the second Battle of the Youth Bands and Family Fun Fest on Sat., Oct. 17, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at The Rusty Mule, 9201 Hwy 290 in Austin. Produced by Hope4Minds with Strait Music and Austin School of Music, the Battle of the Youth Bands and Family Fun Fest is a high octane day of live music, a silent auction and activities including gyroscope, rock wall, food trucks, face painting, redneck games knockdown, carnival games and much more. Proceeds benefit Hope4Minds, a 501 3(c) public charity that's fostering hope and enriching the lives of Texas children with an acquired brain injury.

Bands are competing both on and off stage by raising money for Hope4Minds, with two winners earning a gig at Stubb's Bar-B-Q on Dec. 6, 2015. In addition to their Stubb's show, the first place winner will receive six hours of recording time at Austin School of Music. As of August 15, eight bands plan to take the stage for this good cause including Beautiful Minds from Curious Chords; Dillon Havins Band; Empire from Don't Stop Rockin'; Hannah & Isabelle from Musicians Woodshed; Issy & Ellie; Jordyn & Zach from Musicians Woodshed; Pacific Ninjas from Rock Lab School of Music; and The Wayfarer's Way. Author and singer/songwriter Brooklyn James will emcee the event. All band members must be younger than 21. View their band videos and support your favorite at www.hope4minds.org.

Brianna, the 8 year old singer in Beautiful Minds, suffered a traumatic brain injury when she was 12 months old and has physical disabilities as a result of her injury. Brianna said, "I want to help other kids get help like I did so they can get better."

Ronda Johnson, executive director for Hope4Minds, is especially impressed by the bands' enthusiasm to support other kids. "These young musicians from all over Austin are coming together to support our kids and families, and there's something really special about that."

Admission is \$5 a person with free admission for children under 3. Tickets are available online at Hope4Minds.org and at the event. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs due to limited seating.

2015 Battle of the Youth Bands sponsors represent community-minded businesses from across Austin including On Call Emergency Center; Premier Family Physicians; Community Impact; Covert Buick; Peel Inc. ; Big Sky Pediatric Therapy; AR Signs; Kim Burke of Sotheby's International Realty; Peter King Design; Massage Envy; European Wax Center; Moreland Properties; Sonrisas Therapies; Christopher Commercial-Escarpment Village; Stubbs Bar B Q; Maggie Ruiz of Realty Austin; V & V Liquors; Therapy Center of Buda; Neuro Performance Austin; Anytime Fitness; Momentum Public Relations; and Texas Music Water. Sponsorships are still available at www.hope4minds.org.

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Hudson Bend Fire and EMS

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Grisham Middle School.....512-428-2650
Westwood High School512-464-4000

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Texas Gas Service
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Repairs.....512-485-5080

OTHER NUMBERS

Balcones Postal Office512-331-9802

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DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL?

View the current issue of *The Canyon Chronicle* on the 1st day of each month at www.peelinc.com

SEND US YOUR

Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to canyoncreek@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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TREE RETREATS

NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

One of the most common lizards in the Austin area is the Texas Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus olivaceus*). It is also one of the largest, averaging 7.5 to 11 inches in length, with the females being larger than the males.

A Texas spiny lizard is often hard to spot, as its dorsal pattern can vary by locality, serving as adequate camouflage in its chosen habitat. Typically grey in color with black, white, or reddish-brown blotches or crossbands down its back, it blends in perfectly against the bark of resident trees. Its underside is usually uniformly light grey, and males commonly have bright blue patches on either side of the belly. The scales appear particularly pointed and spiny, and it has long toes and sharp claws suitable for climbing.

All of these features serve this lizard well, as it is diurnal and arboreal, spending much of its time in trees. While it prefers larger tree species with a significant amount of leaf litter below, such as live oaks, post oaks, red oaks, pecans, hackberries, and elms, it may also be found in brushy trees such as mesquites and junipers. This lizard can also be seen climbing on man-made structures such as fence posts, walls, and telephone poles, especially when the base of these objects is covered in brush.

Typically shy and wary, this lizard quickly retreats to the opposite side of a tree trunk in the presence of a predator or human observer. If startled when approached closely, it will suddenly jump from a tree trunk and flee noisily into the leaf litter below, making it almost impossible to locate. Trees not only provide protection for this lizard, but they also provide for its food. Being insectivorous, it can find cicadas, crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, ants, butterflies, and caterpillars in the leafy canopy.

Male Texas spiny lizards are territorial, often defending a single tree from encroachment by other males. When challenged, the two males will have what appears to be a push up contest, until one is intimidated enough to give up and scurry away. Active on the surface from March to November, these lizards are reproductively



Texas Spiny Lizard

active throughout the warmer months of the year. Females lay up to four clutches of eggs in a shallow depression in leaf litter, with hatchlings emerging 45-60 days later. In the cooler months of the year, they take cover for weeks at a time under rocks, logs, and in deep leaf litter, and are occasionally seen basking in the sun on warmer, sunnier days.

So when you're out and about in your yard or at a park, and you hear something skittering in the leaf litter or retreating up a tree, it most likely is a Texas Spiny Lizard!

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, check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.

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FIRE ANT TREATMENTS

There are numerous ways to manage fire ants, but they are often broken into two categories- broadcast treatments and individual mound treatments. Individual mound treatments are used to treat one mound at a time and can be labor intensive and may result in more pesticide being spread into the environment. Broadcast treatments will spread product (granular or bait) over a large area.

Individual mound treatments include pouring boiling water onto the mound, using insecticide mound drenches, spreading insecticide granules onto the mound and watering them in, sprinkling insecticidal dusts on top of the mound or using bait-formulated insecticides around the perimeter of the mound. There are also many “home remedies”, but be advised that many of these do not kill fire ants. Many home remedies make the fire ants move to a new location (often 1-2 feet away), but do not kill the ants.

Bait-formulated insecticides most often consist of a defatted corn cob grit coated with soybean oil; the soybean oil is where the active ingredient (what kills the pest) is dissolved. Worker ants collect bait as a food source and take it back to the colony to share with other ants, including the queen. Depending on the active ingredient, the bait may cause the queen to die or be unable to produce viable eggs, which gradually kills off

the colony. When using baits, results are often slower to observe when compared to individual mound treatments, but can provide 80-90% suppression for 12-18 months. A bonus to broadcasting baits is that the amount of active ingredient is generally very small, which places less chemical into the environment.

With any pesticide treatment, read and follow all label instructions. Make sure to water in the pesticide if the label instructs to do so. Failure to water in chemicals when recommended by the label does an inadequate job of killing the ants. Baits should not be watered in or used before a rainfall event; baits will not be picked up by ants if they get wet.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.

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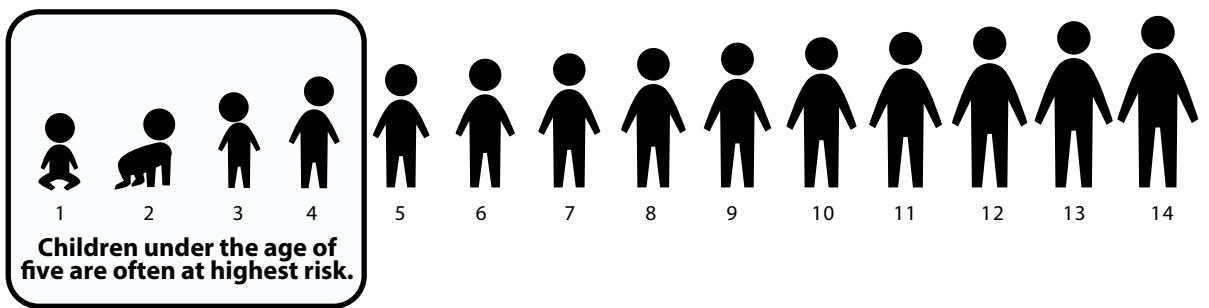
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