Jester Warbler The

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

#### October 2015

Volume 10, Issue 10





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST | 9:30 AM @ JESTER CLUB

(You do not need to be a member to participate) Parade route is up Jester, around Basil, and back. Come out and cheer on our Jester kiddos – they love an audience!



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#### www.JesterNeighbors.com

#### President

Diana Miller	(H) 512-496-0777
	diana0777@att.net
Social Committee Chair & W	Varbler Co-Editor
Teresa Gouldie	(C) 512-751-8000
	tgouldie@gmail.com
Suzanne Brown	(C) 512-923-5577
	oksuzi@hotmail.com
	(C) 512-569-0914
	ed_mokarzel@yahoo.com
	(C) 512-587-7968
	evawisser@gmail.com
	(C) 512-296-7626
	chris@chcaustin.com
<b>Restrictions Violations Com</b>	mittee Chair
Drew Sanders	
	. drew.sanders@goodwintx.com
Warbler Co-Editor and Emai	č
	diana0777@att.net
	, , , e
Jester Club	512 704 99/7
jesterclubmanager@	yahoo.com, www.jesterclub.org

Office:Mailing Address:11149 Research Blvd, Suite 100P.O. Box 203310Austin, TX 78759Austin, TX 78720-3310

Newsletter Information

#### **Co-Editors**

Diana Miller	diana0777@att.net
Teresa Gouldie	tgouldie@gmail.com
Publisher	e e
Peel, Inc	www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181
Advertisingadver	tising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181
	using@1111110.com, 912 209 9101

#### **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

**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 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



## **EXPLORING BULL CREEK** *Saturday, October 3rd*

by Dale Bulla

This free hike is near Jester for those that would like to take advantage of it. The weather should be cooler by then. To register: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland/onlineregistration/ ecowebevents.cfm

#### **LOCATION:**

Located near the intersection of River Place Blvd and FM 2222. Directions sent upon registration.

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Located near the headwaters of Bull Creek, this tract is a haven for wildlife. Participants will be led on a tour through a variety of terrain that will start on a rocky plateau, before descending a slope of rich wooded golden-cheeked warbler habitat. Further explorations will reveal meadows and a stream containing Jollyville-plateau salamanders before ascending back to road. Participants should be ready to hike over steep rocky terrain covered with vegetation. For ages 12 and up. All youth must be under parental supervision at all times and participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

Portions of the hike will occur off-trail. Therefore, participants should wear long pants, and closed-toe hiking-appropriate shoes for protection. Sun protection such as sunscreen and hats are strongly recommended. Participants must bring drinking water. No drinking water will be provided. Volunteer guides have the authority to deny participation due to basic unpreparedness.

Please note that a toilet, sinks or running water are not available on the hike. Smoking, pets, and collecting of plant materials are not permitted. Plan on staying for the entire hike as guides will not able to divide the group to lead anyone out early.



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### **WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS**

With the heat finally breaking and school in session, the busy season for the Welcome Committee is at an end, but not before we delivered 6 Welcome Bags to new residents. Our deliveries were to:

- Jen and Joe with children Catherine, in middle school, and son Alex, in college. They moved from a rented house in Jester to their new residence on Rockberry Cove. Jen's already been active in one of the Jester book clubs so knows several members of our Welcome Committee. They were originally from DC, with a stay in Plano before moving to Austin.
- Tom and Mary Jane with their 2 dogs moved into their new house on Pampas Cove.
- Joe and Maureen have moved to the 7600 block of Basil Drive. They have 3 grown children, and are originally from Chicago.
- Katherine and Rachel recently moved to Jester on the 7800 block of Lakewood Drive. They have lived in Singapore, and Rachel is in the 9th grade.
- Shannon and Meaghan just moved to Gingko Cove with their 4 children Thomas, Mary Kate, Sarah, and John and their sweet dog Ellie. They moved from Northwest Hills.
- Albert and Katrina with their cute dog Sadie moved to Desert Rose Cove from downtown Austin. They had heard about Jester from high school friends.

We felt lucky to find these residents at home, and felt very welcomed by them. We appreciate new residents that are willing to interrupt their busy lives and chat with us.

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.





Albert and Katrina on Desert Rose

Joe and Jen with daughter Catherine on Rockberry

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## AIR PLANTS

# NATUREWATCH

When the time of year arrives when leaves begin to fall and the landscape starts to appear a bit more barren, some things become more noticeable, even though they were present all along. One such thing is epiphytes, or plants that grow harmlessly upon another plant (such as a tree), and derive moisture and nutrients from the air. The word epiphyte comes from the Greek 'epi' meaning 'upon' and 'phyton' meaning 'plant.' Epiphytes differ from parasites in that they grow on other plants for physical support and do not necessarily negatively affect their host. They are also called 'air plants' since they do not root in soil. In central Texas, the most common epiphytes native to our area are Ball Moss (Tillandsia recurvata) and Spanish Moss (Tillandsia usneoides).

Members of the Bromeliad or Pineapple family, neither of these plants are real mosses, but true plants with flowers and seeds. Ball Moss is a scurfy herb with narrow leaves forming small, grayish ball-like clusters on the branches of deciduous trees. In North America, it is native from Florida to southern Georgia, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, with a disjunct population in central Louisiana. Slender, pale violet flowers appear on long bracts from June to August. Ball Moss grows well in areas with low light, little airflow, and high humidity, which is why it is often found on shade trees in the South. It photosynthesizes its own food by receiving water vapor from the air, nitrogen from bacteria, and other minerals from windblown dust. Wind is also the main method of Ball Moss seed dispersal, and its plentiful seeds are armed with fine, straight hairs that cling well to wet or rough surfaces such as bark.

Generally growing upon larger trees such as Southern Live Oak and Bald Cypress, Spanish Moss forms a cascading mass of slender, scaly gray leaves. These scales help the plant absorb water

by Jim and Lynne Weber



Ball Moss



Spanish Moss

and nutrients, mostly from the minerals naturally leached from the foliage of its host tree. Its specific name 'usenoides' means 'resembling Usnea', which is also known as Beard Lichen, but this plant is not a lichen either. It grows in chain-like fashion to form hanging structures up to 20 feet in length, and bears tiny whitish-green flowers from April to June. Its primary range is the southeastern US, but is found as far north as Virginia, and it propagates both by seed and vegetatively with fragments carried by the wind to neighboring tree limbs. Spanish Moss has been used for various purposes, including building insulation, packing material, and mattress stuffing. It is still in use today for arts and crafts, and even in the manufacture of evaporative or swamp coolers. These coolers contain thick pads of Spanish Moss that are pumped with water, with the cooling effect of evaporation caused by a fan that pulls air through the pad and into the building.

There is a common misconception that these epiphytes are parasites, and that they harm the trees that serve as their hosts. While trees that are heavily infested with these plants can have increased wind resistance and result in fallen limbs, there is little evidence among the botanist community that a reasonable presence of these plants have a noticeable effect on the growth or health of the tree. In fact, the presence of these air plants serves as a benefit to many forms of wildlife by harboring small insects that provide food, supplying nesting material, and serving as shelter from the outside elements.

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.

## **Green Tips for October** SMALL STEPS TO BIG SOLUTIONS FOR AIR QUALITY

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission is recommending solutions for Air Quality improvements in Central Texas. With the ozone standard being redefined, we all can benefit from reducing our emissions to avoid non-attainment so here are some of their recommendations.

1. Exchange your gas mower for an electric. Running a gasoline mower for one hour is about equal to the emissions of driving 100 miles.

2. Postpone filling your gas tank on hot sunny days until late in the afternoon or in the evening to reduce the time ozone-forming pollutants can "cook" in hot weather.

3. Don't overfill or "top off" your car's gas tank. Even if you don't spill gasoline, ozone-causing fumes escape.

- 4. Use an energy-conserving multigrade motor oil. These oils can improve your mileage by 1 or 2 percent.
- 5. Keep your tires properly inflated. Just 4 pound of underinflation can cost you ½ mile per gallon.

For more ideas, go to the following links:

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/monops/ozonetips.html http://austintexas.gov/airquality



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#### ACROSS 1. Syllables used in songs (2 wds.) 1. Worship 5. Swiss mountains

9. Waterless 10. Expression 11. Unwanted plant 12. Striped animal 13. Seasickness symptom 15. Affirmative 8. Hit 16. Set loose 18. Pups 21. Epoch 22. Vapors 26. Vapor 28. Singing voice 29. Japanese city 30. Not mine

#### **DOWN**

2. Domain

- 3. In \_\_\_\_ of (instead of) 4. Totals (2 wds.) 5. Wood chopper 6. African country 7. Tiny skin holes 10. Rhododendron 14. Mystery 17. School writings 18. Spanish coins 19. Salaam 20. Encomium 23. Pig food 24. Decorative needle case

  - 25. Classify
  - 27. American Kennel Club (abbr.)

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View answers online at www.peelinc.com

31. In \_\_ (together)

32. Skewer

The Children's Center of Austin Children's Center Of Austin is hosting their Fall Festival October 23, 2015 6:30 - 8 PM **COME JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC, COSTUME CONTEST, SILENT AUCTION. WE WILL HAVE** FOOD AND TONS OF FUN! NORTHWEST AUSTIN 6507 Jester Boulevard Building 2 Austin, TX 78750 512.795.8300 WESTLAKE 8100 Bee Caves Rd Austin, TX 78746 512.329.6633

## www.childrenscenterofaustin.com

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#### Jester Homeowner's **Association Website!**

www.JesterNeighbors.com Community Registration Code: 3328

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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

#### SIGN UP FOR JESTER EMAIL ALERTS!

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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# Spotlight

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FOUR POINTS EDITION FALL 2015

Photo by Chris Diaz, Shutterbug Studios



When it comes to real estate, it helps to know the area – and that's where the Bartlett Real Estate Group comes

in. We were one of the first realtors here!

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#### DECEMBER

Annual Coats For Kids Drive With The Junior League of Austin Drop off at our office 6816 RR 620 N or call and we will pick up

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## DON'T LET THE FLU **KEEP YOU DOWN**

Reviewed by Danielle Fryer, RN, ADC Practice Manager

# SEASON

It's that time of the year when hand sanitizer, tissues and "vampire sneezes" are the talk of the town. Influenza is a serious, potentially life-threatening disease that begins to show up between October through March

in the U.S. Flu can cause absences at school and result in lost production at work.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), estimate that in the United States, each year on average 5% to 20% of the population get the flu and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from seasonal flu-related complications. Flu seasons are unpredictable and can be severe<sup>1</sup>.

#### So, who should get the flu vaccine?

Anyone over 6 months of age should get a flu shot yearly,

- especially those individuals at high risk for flu including: • Children younger than 5 (especially those younger than 2 years old);
  - Adults 65 years and older;
  - Pregnant women and
  - Residents in nursing homes or long-term care • facilities.

People with the following medical conditions are considered at high risk for flu and should also be immunized yearly:

- Asthma:
- Neurological conditions;
- Heart disease;
- Blood disorders (like sickle cell anemia);
- Kidney and liver disorders;
- Metabolic disorders;
- Weakened immune systems;
- People who are younger than 19 on aspirin therapy and people who are morbidly obese.

#### Are there people who should not get a flu shot?

Talk to your doctor if you . . .

- have had a past reaction to the flu shot;
- are recovering from a moderate to severe illness, or
- have a history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

#### When should you get vaccinated?

Flu season usually runs from October through May. Doctors recommend you get the vaccine as early as September to maximize protection for you and your family. It usually takes two to four weeks for the vaccine to give you immunity.

#### give you the flu. However, you may experience side effects such as a sore arm, mild fever or achiness that may last up to two days.

Can I get the flu from a flu shot?

Some people may choose the flu vaccine *nasal mist*. The nasal mist is a live, weakened flu virus that is squirted in your nostrils. It cannot give you the flu. Side effects are minimal and include a runny nose, headache, sore throat, or fever lasting 1-2 days. It can only be given to people from 2 years of age up to the age of 50.

No. The *injection* you will receive is a dead virus - it cannot

#### What is the High Dose Flu Vaccine or Fluzone High Dose?

The high dose vaccine contains four times the amount of antigen (which prompts the body to make antibodies) as the regular flu vaccine. The high dose vaccine is approved for use in adults 65 years and older. As we age our immune systems weaken and immune responses decrease. A recent study<sup>2</sup> indicated that a high-dose vaccine was more effective in preventing flu in adults 65+.

#### What is the difference between the flu and a cold?

A cold may begin gradually and develop over several days. The flu comes on suddenly and is accompanied by some or all of the following symptoms:

- Fever\* or feeling feverish/chills •
- Cough
- Sore throat •
- Runny or stuffy nose •
- Muscle or body aches •
- Headaches •
- Fatigue (tiredness) •
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.
- \* It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

The Austin Diagnostic Clinic, will offer flu shots for adults 18 years and older at all doctor's offices, including Steiner Ranch, during regular business hours. Parents should contact their pediatrician or family doctor to schedule flu shots for children under 18 years old.

- Flu shots \$40 (or will file insurance)
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- ★ Parents should contact their pediatrician to schedule flu shots for children under 18.



DID YOU KNOW: A TYPICAL FLU SEASON CAN LAST FROM OCTOBER - MAY

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