



The VOICE

A Newsletter for the Residents of Teravista

Volume 6, Issue 4

April 2016

Sisterhood is Global

By: Sugandha Jain



On March 5th, all roads in the Northwest part of Austin lead to only one place-Brushy Creek Community Center, to celebrate International Women's festival. From the impressive turnout, there is no doubt that every event organized by the wining trio- Rasna, Kalyani and Bhavani (Memories and Events) is fast evolving as a thread that sews hearts in the Indian community together.

There's nothing quite like riding back to our nostalgic memories of silk kurtis, dangling earrings and

embroidered tops. This event was one of the adventuresome element of honoring our shared sisterhood in a foreign land. Some exciting journeys at this event included mother-daughter dances as remixed by DJ Nish. The bond of friendship was an essential feature running through the highlights of the day.

Rasna Kukreja, one of the organizers, welcomed the gathered guests and expressed her happiness in uniting the Indian community on this occasion. She offered her sincere thanks to the local women entrepreneurs including Indy Vogue, Nistarika collection, Neha Beauty, Stella and Dot, Glitter Garnet, Sweetzions, Devi's collection Shop Jaipore, who helped make this event a resounding success.

There was a colorful potpourri of cultural events, like only a country as diverse as India could offer, each one distinct and adding to the expression of the colorful bouquet that is India. Most dances

(Continued on Page 2)

Round Rock New Neighbors

AN ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN WELCOMING WOMEN FOR FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

Whether you are a newcomer or have lived here for years WE WELCOME YOU! We are of all ages!! Ideal for empty nesters or women who have left the work place and are looking to get back to a social life. We enjoy monthly luncheons with a speaker or program of interest.

Our meeting and program this month will be Wednesday, April 13 at 10:15 am until 1 pm at Brushy Creek Community Center, 16318 Great Oaks Drive, Round Rock. We are having a very "fun" program. A Magical Mystery Tour by "Affordable First Class" is waiting to take us away! Chuck Denny of AFC will be telling us about a possible

new and thrilling adventure. If you are adventurous and want to go to some unique places come and join us. You will have fun and meet some new and interesting people of RRNN.

We have many groups: Card and game groups, gardening, Wine Tasting, Foodies, Antiquing, Hiking, Movie, Photo, Potluck, Safari, Walking and Caring Hands. There is something for everyone. Many activities take place during the day and some activities include couples. Please visit our website at www.rrnewneighbors.org for more information and to see our newsletter. Or call Traci Clegg, Membership Chair at 512-992-1069 for information.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Round Rock Police (Non Emergency).....	512-218-5515
Georgetown Police (Non Emergency).....	512-390-3510
Travis County Animal Control.....	512-972-6060
Round Rock Animal Control	512-218-5500
Georgetown Animal Control.....	512-930-3592

SCHOOLS

Round Rock ISD	512-464-5000
Teravista Elementary School.....	512-704-0500
Hopewell Middle School.....	512-464-5200
Stony Point High School.....	512-428-7000
Georgetown ISD	512-943-5000
Carver Elementary School.....	512-943-5070
Pickett Elementary School.....	512-943-5050
Tippit Middle School.....	512-943-5040
Georgetown High School.....	512-943-5100

UTILITIES

Atmos Energy.....	1-888-286-6700
TXU Energy	1-800-818-6132
AT&T	
New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
Repair.....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service.....	512-485-5555
Repairs.....	512-485-5080

OTHER NUMBERS

City of Round Rock.....	512-218-5400
Round Rock Community Library	512-218-7000
Round Rock Parks and Recreation	512-218-5540
City of Georgetown.....	512-930-3652
Georgetown Public Library	512-930-3551
Georgetown Municipal Airport	512-930-3666
Georgetown Parks and Recreation	512-930-3595
Teravista Golf and Ranch House	512-651-9850
Teravista Residents Club	512-310-7421

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(Continued from Cover)

had participation from diverse communities, which truly represents the spirit of multicultural Austin. That is what building bonds of friendship is all about.

The exhibition stalls held their own with interesting displays of jewelry, baked goods, handicrafts, ethnic Indian garments for the visitors. Women flocked to these stalls to buy Punjabi suits, breezy skirts, tops and colorful saris. The diverse guests and booth vendors were a reminder that US and India have more in common than we realize. We can achieve more by building on these ties and working together in a shrinking world.

The aroma wafting from the food stalls offered stiff competition to the cultural offerings on stage, enticing the crowds. As the sun began to set on the beautiful community center, the excitement was palpable in the air as the crowds eagerly settled to dance and relish the veritable smörgåsbord of culinary delights. The completeness of an Indian meal was added by garam chai.

Everyone who attended left with the feeling of having been treated as a beloved guest. This warm memory of an evening well-spent will take us through the coming months of spring until we meet again for another event led by Rasna and her team.



NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

April GARDENING TIPS

Offered by WeekendGardener.Net

Use this list to help you figure out what gardening tasks you want to accomplish this month.

Planning

When purchasing bedding annuals this spring, choose properly grown plants with good color. Buy plants with well-developed root systems that are vigorous, but not too large for their pots. Plants that bloom in the pack are often root bound and can be set back for several weeks after being transplanted. Plants not yet in bloom will actually bloom sooner, be better established and grow faster.

For hot-weather color, select one of the following: Gloriosa Daisy, Madagascar Periwinkle, Ornamental Peppers, Mexican Zinnia or Amaranthus 'Joseph's Coat. Plan to attract hummingbirds to your garden this year by planting red or orange flowers. Monarda (common names: beebalm, horsemint, Oswego tea, and bergamot) is a good perennial plant that thrives in sun and provides nectar for these small birds.

Planting

Begin to plant seedlings of warm-season vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. You can also start your pumpkin seeds now.

Sow beets, beans, cucumbers, carrots, lettuce, sweet corn and radishes

Plant herbs such as thyme, sage, parsley, chives and basil

Sod or sow new lawns, and over seed damaged older lawns

Start planting out warm season annuals such as impatiens, marigolds, petunias, sunflowers, zinnia, lobelia, alyssum

Finish planting summer-flowering bulbs like tuberose, gladiolus, dahlias, and callas

Plant chervil, coriander, dill, rosemary, and summer savory outside after the last spring frost date for your area. Your Extension agent should be able to give you the date.

Maintenance

Mulch soil to save water, smother weeds, keeps soil cooler. Spread 1-3 inches (2.5-7cm) of bark chips, compost, wood shavings, or other organic material under shrubs trees, annuals and vegetables. Thin vegetables that were sown too thickly, like basil, carrots, green onions, or lettuce. Prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees after bloom is over.

Fertilize everything right now, but do not feed spring-flowering shrubs like azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons until after they have finished flowering. Use an acid based fertilizer. They also should be pruned after blooming.

Austin Fire Department Wildfire Symposium Saturday, May 7, 2016

WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

Topics covered will include:

- Evacuation Readiness: Key to Surviving Wildfire
- Protect your home So it can protect you
- Insuring for wildfire: Knowing what's at stake
- Fire-Adapted Families: Protecting what matters most

Wildfires are a fact of life in Central Texas. But that doesn't mean we are powerless against them.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

4801 La Crosse Avenue

Austin, TX 78739

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Lunch and beverages provided

This event is free, but seating is limited!

Contact Justice Jones at: 512.974.0199 or justice.jones@austintexas.gov

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www.UniversityVillageMemoryCare.com





JOIN US FOR GOLF AND A GREAT CAUSE!

DATE: Wednesday, April 27th

11:00 am Registration - 1:00 pm Start

LOCATION: Flintrock Falls Country Club

FORMAT: 4-person scramble

COST: \$165 per golfer*

*Includes lunch, dinner and lots of swag

Register online at:

www.colinshope.org

Questions about the event?

Contact Kim Flasch

or Wendi Baldwin

(512) 750-8161 or (512) 657-3067

info@colinshope.org

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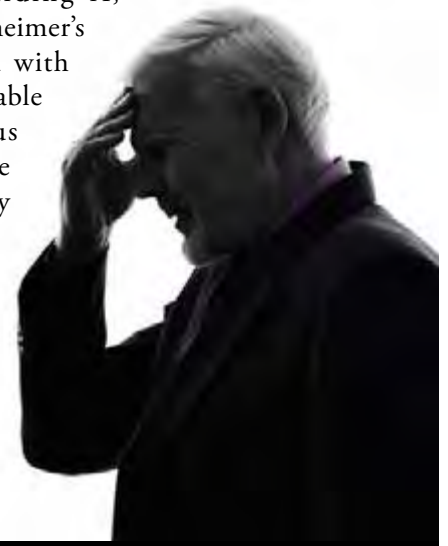
WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG

Alzheimer's Respite Center in Austin

In today's world almost every family is touched by Alzheimer's. Someone in the family falls prey to this dreaded disease and it eventually impacts immediate and often extended family. The person with the greatest responsibility is the primary caregiver. Alzheimer sufferers often reach a stage of the disease that demands that someone be with them twenty-four hours every day. This places the caregiver in an extremely stressful position. If family does not live in the same city or if family is unavailable to help, the burden on the caregiver can become overwhelming. Accomplishing the simplest tasks becomes sometimes impossible because of the pressing needs of the person they are caring for.

A public, on-campus Alzheimer's respite center was established in Austin, TX several years ago. The center provides four hours of weekly care for people with Alzheimer's so that their caregivers can have a few hours of respite to do whatever they need to do. Great Hills follows the guidelines of the Alzheimer's Association Capital of Texas Chapter, and works closely with their Executive VP and Program Director to be sure that their Alzheimer's respite center meets all required standards.

The Great Hills Baptist Church Radiant Friends Alzheimer's Respite Center is located at 10500 Jollyville Road, Building A, Austin, TX 78759. Alzheimer's patients are welcomed with skilled caregivers, enjoyable activities, a nutritious meal, and safe exercise free of charge every Tuesday from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. If you have a need in this area, contact Barbara Cross at 512-250-0826 for more information, and/or to apply for services.



MUD HENS

NATUREWATCH

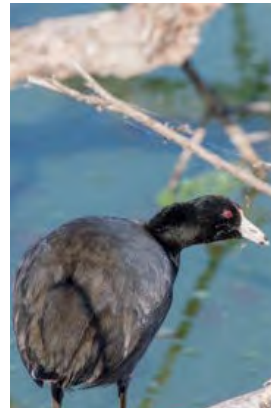
by Jim and Lynne Weber

Spend any amount of time observing wildlife around freshwater wetlands, swamps, marshes, suburban lakes, and sewage ponds, and you'll no doubt see a Mud Hen or American Coot (*Fulica americana*). Commonly mistaken to be ducks, coots belong to a distinct scientific order and differ significantly from other species of marsh birds.



American Coots are commonly called 'Mud Hens'.

An overall blackish, plump, chicken-like bird with a rounded head, red eyes, a sloping whitish bill with a dark band near the tip, and a small reddish brown forehead shield, coots swim like ducks but do not have webbed feet like ducks. Their yellow-green legs end in long toes with broad lobes of skin on either side that help them kick through the water. Each time the bird lifts its feet, the lobes fold back to facilitate walking on dry land. Their tiny tails and short wings make them awkward and clumsy fliers, and they often require many wing beats and long running takeoffs to get airborne. Coots mainly eat aquatic plants and can dive in search of food, but they can also forage and scavenge on land for terrestrial plants, arthropods, fish, insects, and mollusks. Mating season occurs in May and June, with coots requiring heavy stands of aquatic vegetation along a shoreline with some standing water within those stands. It is here that they make their nests, which consist of multiple structures used as display platforms, egg nests, and brood nests. Egg nest material is woven into a shallow basket and lined with finer grasses to hold the eggs. The entire nest is anchored to upright plant stalks and is generally



An American Coot showing its lobed feet.

a floating structure. Females deposit eggs between sunset and midnight, one per day, until the average clutch of 9 eggs is complete. Both males and females share the 21-day incubation responsibility.

Being persistent re-nesters, coots will replace lost clutches within 2 days during the deposition period. Additionally, once hatching begins and a certain number of chicks are present, coots will abandon the remaining eggs. Unlike the drab color of the adults, coot chicks are quite colorful, having conspicuous, orange-tipped, ornamental plumes covering the front half of their bodies, often referred to as 'chick ornaments.' While these plumes get bleached out after about 6 days, experiments have shown that chicks with more of this ornamentation are given preferential treatment by their parents. The oldest known coot lived to be more than 22 years old.

In winter, coots can be found in large groups or 'rafts' of mixed waterfowl and in groups numbering thousands of individuals. They can consume very large amounts of aquatic vegetation, but because they live in wetlands, they can accumulate toxins from pollution sources including agricultural runoff, industrial waste, and nuclear facilities. As such, scientists monitor coots as a way of measuring the effect these toxins have on the health of the environment at large.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press, and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!



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View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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initial)

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