

The Jester Warbler

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Nature Watch Sun Trackers

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Common Sunflower



Maximillian Sunflower



This time of year, the most notable family of plants are the Helianthus, or sunflowers. From the Greek 'helios' or sun and 'anthos' or flower, these plants are usually tall annuals or perennials that during their growth phase exhibit a subtle behavior in the daylight hours. This behavior, called heliotropism, is the ability for the young flower buds and leaves to gently tilt toward the sun, tracking it as it moves across the sky. By the time the flower heads mature, they are stationary but generally facing east to greet the rising sun.

Sunflowers are typically tall plants with one to multiple flower heads, consisting of bright yellow ray florets or flowers, surrounding yellow or maroon disc florets. In wild or native species, the rough and hairy stems are normally branched, and the leaves are often sticky and lance or heart-shaped. Sunflowers also exhibit phyllotaxis, or the arrangement of leaves on a stem that forms a distinct pattern, in this case a repeating spiral. Additionally, the disc florets also display a phyllotactic pattern, one that creates the optical effect of criss-crossing spirals in the flower's center.

In our area, the two most abundant sunflowers are the Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) and the Maximilian Sunflower

(*Helianthus maximiliani*). Blooming from May to October, the Common Sunflower grows on dry soils, especially in disturbed areas. It can reach 1.5 to 8 feet tall, and various parts of the branched stems can be either green or dark purple. The heart-shaped leaves are coarse and covered in rough hairs, and grow from 2.5 to 10 inches long. Up to 4 inches across, the flower heads have yellow ray flowers and reddish brown disc flowers. As their scientific name suggests, these plants are annuals.

Maximilian Sunflowers, on the other hand, are perennials that bloom in September and October. They grow 1 to 6 feet tall in colonies on both the dry ground of prairies and the moist ground of roadside ditches and other low places. Shorter, rough hairs cover the

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*All news must be received by the 12th
of the month prior to the issue.*

(Continued from Cover)

narrow lance-shaped leaves, which average 2 to 4 inches long. The 1.5 to 3 inch wide flower heads have yellow ray flowers surrounding yellow disc flowers, with numerous flower heads growing along the unbranched stems.

Aside from their aesthetic value to humans, sunflowers are generally palatable to deer and numerous species of birds eat their seeds. Their flower heads support nectaring bees, and they are the food plants for several butterfly species such as the Bordered Patch and Silvery Checkerspot. When mixed with other native annuals, these sun trackers provide good cover for many species of wildlife, and would be a great addition to your native wildscape.

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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Neighborhood Compassion Watch!

by Lesa Walker

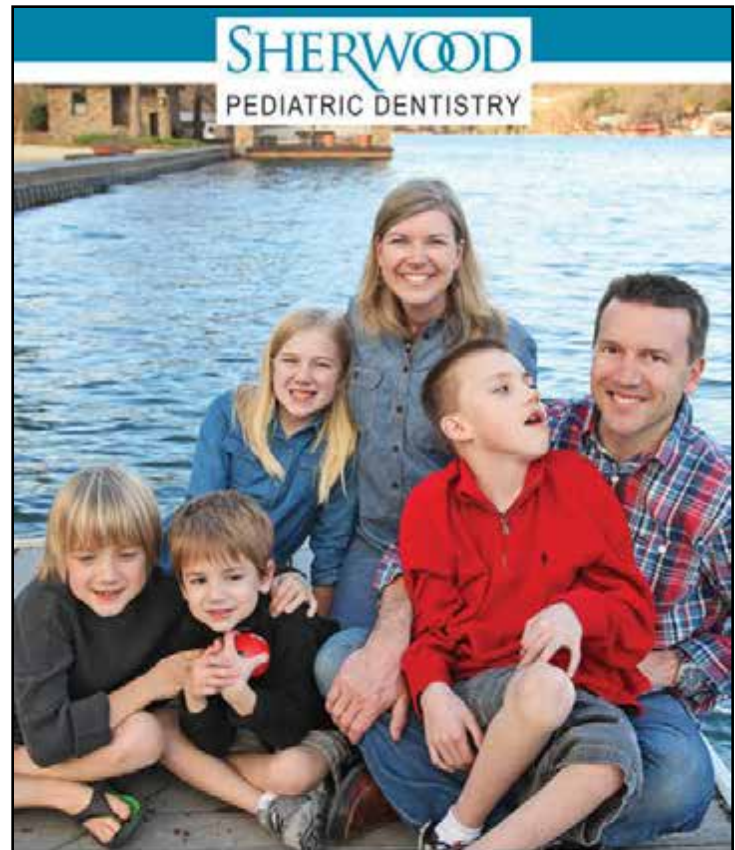
On April 14, 2016, the Austin City Council passed a resolution designating Austin as a Compassionate City. There are now over 350 compassionate communities globally and the number is growing. Compassionate Austin is recognized as a leader!

Let's start the "Neighborhood Compassion Watch"! Compassion exists in 3 key dimensions: caring for others, self, and the Earth. Discover and share your stories of "3D" compassion. Catch people in the act! You can engage youth in a treasure hunt for compassion and help them tell about what they find. Send your stories to Compassionate Austin at compassionateaustin@gmail.com. Be sure to identify your neighborhood when you submit your story! We may be able to publish them in this newsletter or on the Compassionate Austin website or Facebook page. Also, we are looking for stories that we can highlight in Citizen Communications at Austin City Council meetings.

Breaking News! The "Peace Day Austin" celebration is coming up in September! From September 11-21, Austin celebrates the International Day of Peace and the 11 Days of Global Unity. Let's make Peace Day Austin and the 11 Days of Global Unity part of our homes and our neighborhood! Let's live peace and compassion! The Global Unity Games offer a simple and free way for you to get involved. Register NOW to access information and resources to engage your family, your neighbors and your community. Go to the Compassion Games website to sign up: <http://compassiongames.org/global-unity-games/>. From September 11-21, share what you discover in our Neighborhood Compassion Watch on the global Compassion Map! Let's put our neighborhood and Austin on the map!! Act locally and impact globally! The Peace Day Austin website has more information: www.peacedayaustin.org.

Announcement! Open invitation for the "3D CAM" Project (3D Compassionate Austin Mobilization) "Youth Ambassadors Program" and also student internship opportunities. Go to the Compassionate Austin website for more info: www.compassionateaustin.org. Let's engage youth from our neighborhood in creating a better neighborhood, a better Austin, and a better world!

Research shows the personal and community benefits of strengthening our compassion skills. We grow stronger in what we practice! Let's bring 3D compassion to life! We ALL are Compassionate Austin! Find out more at: www.compassionateaustin.org.



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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS



It was just a few months ago that our deliveries were delayed due to a lot of rain. Not that the Welcome Committee is afraid of a little rain, but we didn't want to bring our wet feet into new neighbors' houses! Or maybe we just don't like going out in the rain. Whichever. Now, however, we're talking heat, and lots of it! We did go out in the heat, though, and were able to deliver almost all our Welcome Bags. There was one house still under renovation, and one house

where no one was home and there wasn't anywhere to put the bags. At yet another, we left the bag (without the cookies) because the new residents had moved in and there was a Fed Ex package already on the porch.

Even so, we were able to welcome 6 new neighbors.

- We met Ophir and Pamela with their children Amitai and Elan. They moved to the 8100 block of Jester Boulevard from Sunnyvale, California.
- Jessie and Marcus just moved to their house on the 8300 block of Guthrie. They merged their households and have 3 children, Nora (8), Kaden (7), and Makayla (5), along with a chocolate lab named Vida. Both Jessica and Marcus are long time Austinites.
- Wei and Hong with their children Grace and James moved to the 7700 block of Basil Drive. They're from China and have a new restaurant located at Burnet and Braker.
- Even though renovations are still underway, we delivered a Welcome Bag to David and his daughter Deedee, who will be moving to the 6700 block of Beauford Drive. David wasn't at home, but we spoke with his good friend Tai.
- Ashu and Richa with their son Riyansh and daughter Aaliya moved to their new residence on Clove Cove from their house in the Great Hills area. They are long term Austinites.
- We met Jason and Sheila and their 4 year old child Ellie. Unfortunately it was too late to also meet 1 year old Cooper. They moved to Moss Rose Cove from the Brentwood area.

If you live near any new residents, please stop by and introduce yourself! Also, please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 484-7588 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.

Association Crime Stoppers

Everyone wants a safe place to call home, and our association strives to make all residents feel secure. While we're diligent in our efforts to reduce possible dangers in our community, we can't do it alone. It's up to everyone to pitch in to keep crime rates down. Thankfully, taking a few simple steps can go a long way in keeping theft, vandalism and other felonies and misdemeanors out of the association.

Know Your Neighbors. And not just the neighbors on your block, but also the neighbors from all parts of the association. At the very least, you'll get a better idea of who actually lives (and in turn, who belongs) here. Talking with your neighbors will also give you the chance to find out if there have noticed any crimes or suspicious activity in the association recently so that you can be on the lookout as well. Consider creating and distributing a block list with everyone's contact information on your block so that you and your neighbors can alert each other of any problems that arise.

Leave The Light On. A good way to deter felons from breaking into your home is to make sure your front porch light stays on all night, even when you're out of town. Not only does it signal that someone's home, it also makes it harder for vandals to hide among the shadows. If you're worried that you'll either forget to turn the light on at night or off in the morning, you can purchase an inexpensive timer that will automatically do that for you every day. Also, if you see any street lights around the association that are burnt out, please contact <https://slo.centerpointenergy.com/> or let the clubhouse know as soon as possible so that we can replace them for everyone's safety.

Lock Up. If you want to keep unwanted guests out, don't make your home inviting. Even when you're around, it's best to keep all gates, doors and garages locked at all times. It's also a good idea to keep your windows closed and locked when possible, especially if they're on the ground floor.

Put On Your Walking Shoes. Taking a stroll around the association isn't just good exercise. You can casually patrol the community for anything suspicious or usual, as well as swap notes about criminal activity in the area with other neighbors who are out and about. Also, when more residents regularly walk around the association, it can help scare off hooligans who are afraid of getting caught in the act.

Clean It Up. Picking up litter, removing graffiti and keeping trees, bushes and lawns trimmed not only makes the association look better, but also sends the message that our residents are diligent about keeping the neighborhood a respectable place to live. This can help discourage troublemakers from hanging around our community and encourage responsible and involved people to move to the association.

See Something, Say Something. If you notice a crime or a suspicious activity, regardless of how small the incident may seem, notify your local precinct or notify 911. Keep in mind that our local precinct is already in our area. List this number under A911 on your phone for easy access.

We all have a responsibility to our community to help keep it safe, and incorporating even a few of these tips can go a long way. Do your part to make our association a place you're happy to call home.



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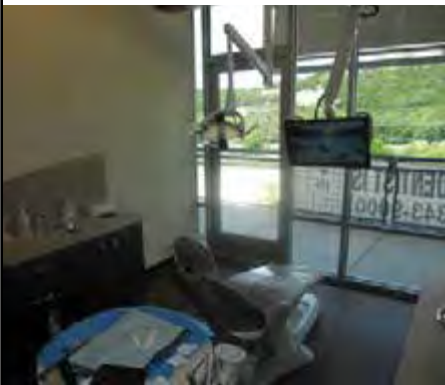
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Children's Center of Austin Names Tanya Saenz

to Head of Schools

childrenscenterofaustin.com



Highly regarded Austin-area child-care and education center creates new Head of Schools position to direct growth for all three of its campuses; promotes Tanya Saenz to fill roll.

AUSTIN, TX (July 28, 2016) — The Children's Center of Austin announced today that Tanya Saenz has been named the institution's first Head of Schools. In this roll, Saenz will oversee the management of all the Children's Center of Austin schools including fiscal, personnel, curriculum, quality assurance, and customer relations, as well as the overall administrative success for all schools.

"I am excited about my next chapter with the Children's Center of Austin," said Saenz, who was promoted from the Regional Director position. "We have an amazing school system with incredible families, teachers, and staff

all working together to ensure the physical, social, and intellectual needs of every child are met on a daily basis. My goal is to build upon this solid foundation and pave a path for our students to have the most well-rounded, safe, and caring start to their education."

Some of the new initiatives Saenz will be addressing early on include physical upgrades to some of the schools such as outdoor sport courts for enhanced student activity and health. Also, she will continue to seek out the best ongoing educational and training opportunities for teachers to stay atop their fields and continue to provide the best care for all students.

Saenz brings 17 years of early childhood education and management experience to the newly appointed Head of Schools position. Six of those years have been spent at the Children's Center of Austin serving as Curriculum Coordinator, School Director, and Regional Director. She holds a degree in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Infant and Toddler studies from Del Mar College, and is working towards a second degree in Business Administration from Concordia University.

Prior to joining the Children's Center of Austin, Saenz worked in schools in south Texas as well as three years with the Lake Travis Independent School District. Now, in the newly appointed position as Head of Schools, Saenz will rely upon that experience to continue the growth of the Chil-

dren's Center of Austin, its staff, and students, as well as provide continuity of management across all campuses.

About Children's Center of Austin

The Children's Center of Austin is devoted to a love of learning based on the premise that every child is a unique individual with a definite growth and development pattern. The Children's Center of Austin is committed to the belief that early childhood education is vital to our children's futures, and thus the curriculum is developmentally based and focuses on the individual child's social, emotional, and intellectual needs. The Children's Center of Austin serves infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and offers after school programs for kindergarten through fifth grade at three Austin area locations: Westlake, Northwest Austin (at Jester Blvd.), and Steiner Ranch.

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September Events

Compliments of... Teresa Gouldie 751-8000 Coldwell Banker, United

Sept. 9 - 10	The Mozart Requiem - An evening of all Mozart	austinsymphony.org
Sept. 10	Dripping with Taste Wine, Food & Arts Festival	drippingwithtaste.org
Sept. 11	Clint Black	oneworldtheatre.org
Sept. 16	Miranda Lambert: Keeper of the Flame Tour	uterwincenter.com
Sept. 18	CASA Superhero Run - 5K & Kids 1K & costume contest	casasuperherorun.com
Sept. 22 - 29	Fantastic Fest: 8-day Film Festival	fantasticfest.com
Sept. 23	Alabama Shakes	austin360amphitheater.com
Sept. 23 - 25	2016 Wizard World Austin Comic Con	wizardworld.com
Sept. 24	Blacklight Slide <i>Unique night experience focused on UV/Neon Glowing fun</i>	Travis County Expo Center blacklightslide.com
Sept. 24	Texas Craft Brewers Festival	texascraftbrewersfestival.org
Sept. 24	The Mavericks - Genre-defying melting pot of pop music	acl-live.com
Sept. 24 - 25	Pecan Street Festival - One of the longest running arts/crafts and music festivals in the nation	pecanstreetfestival.org
Sept. 27 -	Newsies	Bass Concert Hall
Oct. 2	Smash-hit, crowd-pleasing new musical	texasperformingarts.org
Sept. 29	The Monkees <i>Mickey Dolenz and Peter Tork carry on the band's tradition</i>	The Paramount Theatre austintheatre.org

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