



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

February 2017

Volume 12, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year Jester Neighbors! Hope that this year will be a great one for you and your family. We are lucky to live in such a great neighborhood. A good way to meet your neighbors is to attend the next Jester Homeowner's Association 2017 Annual meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm at the new Coffee Shark in the Ladera Bend center (near Chase Bank). Be sure to stop by and thank Matt Allen, owner of Coffee Shark and Jester resident, for hosting our meeting.

During the meeting, we will have reports from our committees, Board nominations and an open discussion period. Please contact any of the Jester Board members (listed on back of this page) if you are interested in serving on a committee or the Board.

Look forward to seeing you!
Jester is a Great place to live....

Diana Miller
President

THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS

by Dale Bulla

If you had plants that died or looked sick during last summer, chances are you planted non-natives or exotic ones. These plants require great effort if they are to survive the summers and droughts of central Texas. This often includes extra water, fertilizer and insecticides. If you would like this year to be different, now is the time to plan.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife reminds us that much money is spent each year to remove these exotics from our local preserves and parks. These invasive species often crowd out our native plants that provide food, nectar and sustenance for our native birds and wildlife including the endangered Black Capped Vireo and Golden Cheeked Warbler.

The berries and seeds of these invaders can spread into the Balcones Canyonland Preserve where they can often overtake an area causing many problems. Because Jester is our home, we have a special obligation to protect our beautiful environment. If you are replacing any of the following invaders, please consider using local natives species to protect our Preserve, reduce your expense and work as well as provide the food and shelter of your birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Top Invasive Species:

Red-tip Photinia
Chinese, Japanese or Wax-leaf Ligustrum
Chinaberry Tree
Chinese Tallow Tree
Nandina
Mimosa Tree
Japanese Honeysuckle

(Continued on Page 2)

Jester Homeowners Association ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Feb 21st at 7 PM

Registration starts at 6:30 PM
Note New Location: Coffee Shark
in the Ladera Bend Center
(near Chase Bank)

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing
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www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php.

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

(The Natives are Restless, Continued from Cover Page)

These are a few of the most common and the ones that have been observed in our neighborhood. If you still have these plants in your landscape, consider keeping them well pruned or removing the berries to prevent their spread into the Preserve. Check out the City of Austin Plant Guide for alternatives:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/plantguide.pdf>

For more information or help in identifying your plants, please contact us.

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Bring the World to your Child by Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

By Vicki Odom

One life changing way to broaden your child's world view is to volunteer to host a high school foreign exchange student. Foreign exchange programs have been around for almost 100 years, and their mission has always been the same – to educate people about different cultures through person-to-person exchange.

“We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families,” says Connie Coutu, regional manager for Ayusa, a non-profit promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. “The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture.”

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world including Argentina, China, and France to name a few. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.

Winter Alert!

Protect Your Plants and Irrigation Systems

PROTECT YOUR PLANTS:

Water your plants thoroughly ahead of time. You need to be sure the roots are wet, not just the leaves. Much of freeze damage is from dehydration. Watering before a freeze could make a big difference in your tropicals and tender perennials.

Cover your delicate plants. Remember, you want to be sure the roots are protected, covered, or mulched well. Even if you lose the top growth of these tender plants, if the roots are alive the plants will come back in the spring. Do not cover them with plastic touching the leaves of your plants. If possible, use woven frost protection sheets such as N-Sulate (which can be folded, stored, and reused for many years) or sheets and blankets. In a mild freeze or frost, one blanket will probably do for most plants. In a hard freeze (below 30 degrees for any period of time), use a heavy blanket or several layers of sheets. You can even add a plastic over that if you want, since it won't be touching the foliage. Also, don't forget to put rocks or something heavy on the edges of your N-Sulate or blanket to be sure the wind doesn't blow it away, exposing the roots of your plants.

Don't do any heavy pruning on freeze-damaged plants until late winter, when you think all chance of frost is over.

Remove all protective covering if the sun comes out and the temperature goes up, because it can be 32 degrees today and 70 degrees tomorrow.

Along with protecting your tender plants during the winter, remember it's not a good idea to fertilize tender tropicals that are exposed to outside temperatures during these cold months. Fertilizing encourages new growth, and that new growth is more vulnerable to freezing and near-freezing conditions than old growth is. It's OK to fertilize and encourage growth with indoor or green-housed tropicals, although shorter days usually slow down growth no matter how much you fertilize.

PROTECT YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Your backflow-prevention device is the most important part of your irrigation system. It's also the most vulnerable part of your system if there is a freeze. It may be located somewhere right outside the garage and next to the foundation. Cover the top by wrapping the part that is above ground with a towel. It is also best to turn off your valve.

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GO PAPERLESS**



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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

The Jester Welcome Committee had our annual post holiday party last month. We had lots of appetizers, some Prosecco, and a lively conversation. We were lucky enough to have reasonable weather – just missed that last Arctic cold spell! So we did deliveries of 6 Welcome bags to new residents and were fortunate to find all of them home!

We delivered bags to new residents:

- Monalia and Rahul on Filbert Cove. They're still renovating, but will move in sometime in February.
- Matt and Melissa on Fig Vine Cove. They've both lived in Austin for years.
- Jason and fiancée Teel on Fawnhollow Cove. They'll be married in May. They met in Afghanistan where Jason was a Navy pilot and Teel worked for an engineering company. She has 2 sisters already living in Jester, so their move here was a natural one!
- Charles and his daughter Carissa and dog Casey on the 7600 block of Jester. They just moved from another Austin home, but lived longer in Abilene. Charles is planning some renovations, but is happy to be here, and has found his neighbors to be, well, neighborly!
- Jennifer and Ryan, with their 3 year-old son Oliver, who moved to the 8100 block of Bottlebrush Drive. They upsized from another house in Jester.
- Bill and Mark with their dog Rocky, who moved to the 7300 block of Jester from Central Austin. Although they have longer commutes now, they like the quiet environment and lack of traffic outside their door.



Teel and Jason on Fawnhollow

The 7 members of the Welcome Committee have been together for years now. We are: Deb Lewis, Naomi Ritchie, Darla Rowan (co-chair), Jen Schwan, Janice Toreki, JoAnn Welles (co-chair) and Eva Wissner. What we really enjoy is meeting new neighbors, giving them our welcome bags containing lots of neighborhood information and those home-baked cookies. This month, all the new neighbors were so welcoming that our 'work' delivering bags was fun!

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.

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NATURE WATCH

THE PRESERVES AROUND US

by Jim and Lynne Weber

One of the main reasons Austin is such a wonderful place to live is because it is interlaced with a patchwork of preserves, which together comprise the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) System. In 1992, voters in the City of Austin passed Proposition 10, approving \$22M in bonds for the sole purpose of acquiring and improving lands to protect air and water quality, conserve endangered species, and provide open space for passive public use. Jointly owned and managed by the City of Austin, Travis County, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Nature Conservancy, the Travis Audubon Society, and private landowners, the BCP's ultimate goal is to set aside 30,428 acres that contribute to the quality of all life here in Austin.

A multi-agency conservation effort that operates under a regional permit issued under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the BCP consists of several tracts of land in western Travis County. It is important to note that a 'preserve' is different than a 'park', and is set aside for the purpose of maintaining a natural state rather than developed for recreational use. The BCP protects prime habitat for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler, a bird species that is found only to breed within Central Texas' specialized mix of native, mature Ashe Juniper (often incorrectly called 'cedar') and stands of Live, Spanish, and Shin oak trees. This type of mixed oak-juniper woodland grows mainly on our moist steep-sided canyons and slopes, providing the warbler with the food, water, and nest-building material it needs to breed.

In addition to the Golden-cheeked Warbler, 7 other endangered species make the preserve system their home, including the Black-capped Vireo, Tooth Cave Ground Beetle, Tooth Cave Pseudoscorpion, Tooth Cave Spider, Kretschmarr Cave Mold Beetle, Bone Cave Harvestman, and Bee Creek Cave Harvestman. These last 6 species are called karst invertebrates, arthropods that spend their entire existence underground in karst formations. These karst features, such as caves, sinkholes, cracks, and crevices, were formed by the dissolution of calcium carbonate in limestone bedrock by mildly acidic groundwater. Over 70 other rare plant and animal species also exist on the preserves, making this region one of the most biologically diverse areas in the country. As such, Central Texas is happily home to more habitat conservation plans than any other region in the United States.

These wild and beautiful areas require management plans in order for them to remain pristine habitats. This includes establishment of secure boundaries and rules for access control, maintenance of appropriate trails, species monitoring, habitat enhancement, and – last but not least – public education and outreach to promote good neighbor relations. As Austin residents, we can do our part to become stewards of these unique habitats. While in the preserve system, we can stay on marked trails, travel only on foot, and “take only photographs, leave only footprints.” In our neighborhoods, especially those that border preserve tracts, we can landscape with native plants, remove invasive plants, eliminate pesticide use, be responsible pet owners, practice water conservation, and always respect preserve boundaries.

Most importantly, we can all minimize further negative impacts on the fragile habitat that surrounds our neighborhoods by caring for the preserves through volunteering. Some of the activities you can become involved with in the preserve system include long-term habitat restoration, gathering and planting native seeds, removing non-native invasive plants, leading guided hikes, and learning about and sharing your knowledge of the native plants and animals that make this such a special place to live. For more information, visit the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/bcp>.

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 two books, Nature Watch Austin & Nature Watch Big Bend, both published by Texas A&M University Press, and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



The endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler.



The endangered Black-capped Vireo.

CROCK POT CHICKEN CHILI DIP

INGREDIENTS

3 - 4 Chicken Breasts
1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
1 can Cream of Celery soup
1 can Cream of Chicken soup
1 can of green salsa
1 16-oz can of chili (without beans)
1 small can of green chilies
4-6 nine-inch flour (or corn) tortilla, cut to strips
1 ½ cups grated American, Cheddar, & Gouda cheeses

DIRECTIONS

Boil chicken breasts in boiling water for 25-30 minutes, or until done; let cool. Tear chicken off the bones (unless boneless) into strips, or bite-size pieces. Place into crock pot. Add all other ingredients until blended. Place crock pot on low for 1 hour to heat thoroughly.



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JESTER HOA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

The HOA has a new updated, website. Besides HOA documents and contact information, it will keep you informed on the social events throughout the year.

WWW.JESTERHOA.COM

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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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February Events

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Feb. 7	Dancing with the Stars: LIVE! - Your favorite stars dance	texasperformingarts.org
Feb. 14 -	Elephant and Piggie: We are in a Play!	Zach Theatre
Apr. 28	Bring your "bestus" friend and share in the laughter	zachtheatre.org
Feb. 16 - 19	Austin RV Expo - View options for traveling the open road	austinrvexpo.com
Feb. 17	Delbert McClinton American blues rock and electric blues singer/songwriter	Paramount Theatre austintheatre.org
Feb. 17 - 26	The Marvelous Wonderettes A trip down memory lane to the 1958 Springfield HS Prom	tex-arts.org
Feb. 18	Pat Green - Texas country singer/songwriter	Moody Theater acl-live.com
Feb. 18 - 19	Children's Book Fair Meet book authors and favorite characters	Wildflower Center wildflower.org
Feb. 18 - 19	Once - Broadway musical winner of eight 2012 Tony Awards	thelongcenter.org
Feb. 19	Beloved Faerie Tea Party Come dressed in your faerie best for a tea party	Zilker Botanical Garden austintexas.gov
Feb. 24 - 26	Austin Jugglefest An event full of workshops, games, demonstrations and shows	juggling.place.org/jugglefest/
Feb. 25	Modern Home Tour Austin - Features homes by some of Austin's premier modern architects and builders	goodlife.luxury/page/austin-modern-home-tour
Feb. 25 - 26	That Takes the Cake! Where cake meets art - competition and demonstrations	Round Rock Sports Complex thattakesthecake.org
Feb. 26	BJ Thomas - Five-time Grammy winning singer/songwriter	oneworldtheatre.org
Feb. 27	Billy Crystal - Award-winning comedian promises a hilarious and intimate evening	The Long Center thelongcenter.org

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JESTER BUSINESS ALLIANCE



IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

WHAT?

The Jester Business Alliance is comprised of many of the small businesses found at Jester and FM 2222.

WHY?

We believe that giving back to the community is the best way to thank the community for their patronage.

We value being part of the community and look forward participating in the community.

WHO?

JESTER BUSINESS ALLIANCE DIRECTORY

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