The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

#### March 2017



## Saturday, April 8th 9:30 am @ Jester Club

(Note: This is the weekend before Easter weekend!)

Please drop off ONE DOZEN EGGS PER CHILD (filled with candy, money, stickers, etc...but no chocolate, please!)

Look for drop-off signs posted at various locations in the neighborhood a few days prior to the event.



### JESTER GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE FOR 2017

Volume 12, Issue 3

#### by Dale Bulla

The following are some new numbers for our green neighborhood designation at the City of Austin Green Neighborhood Website. If you have purchased solar panels, purchased a plug-in or hybrid vehicle please let us know so we can add your address to our accomplishments.

> 106 Hybrid Vehicles 17 Plug-In Electric Vehicles 49 Houses with Solar Photo Voltaic Panels

I know we must have more hybrids and plug-ins than this because I see many I know I don't have. So please let me know.

We just added another solar PV house to our Green Neighborhood list. It is 7105 Foxtree Cove. It is also a certified habitat as well.

dale-bulla@pobox.com



## <u>Jester Estates</u>





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#### **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.



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<u>Jester Estates</u>



## March 23, Thurs. 6:30

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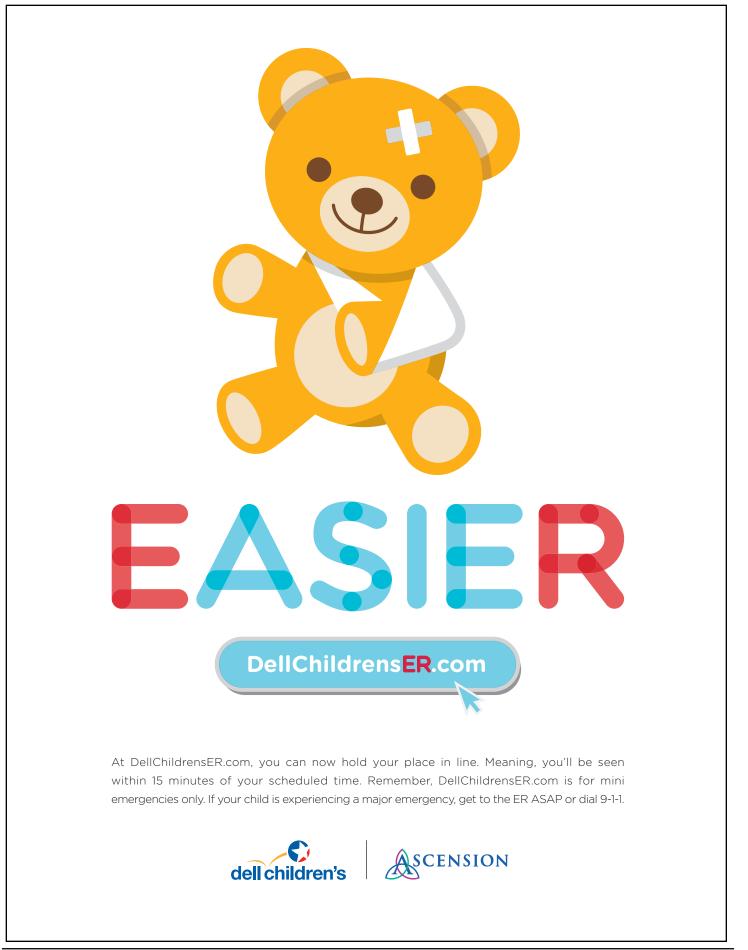
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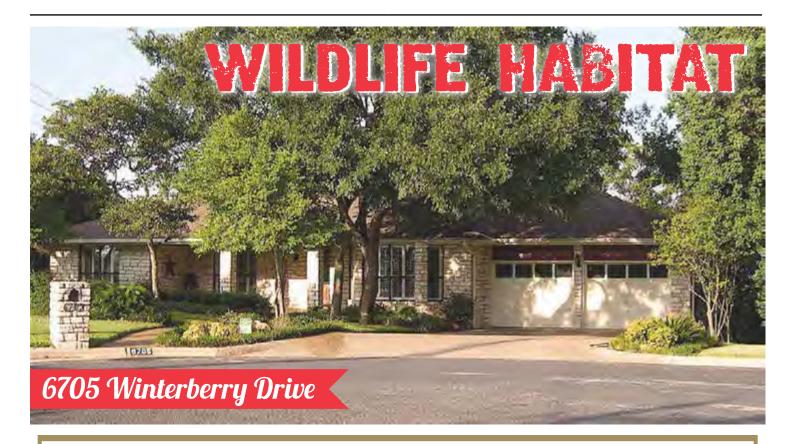
It will be fun catching up with everyone. Hopefully the weather will be nice and we can enjoy their patio!

Please RSVP if you are attending. Debra Ellsworth 512-627-5323 debra@ellsworthteam.com

This year, we will be having Jester Ladies Night Out quarterly. In addition to the quarterly get togethers, let's try something new.

In between the quarterly JLNO, if someone in Jester neighborhood would like to host an evening in their home to showcase their business or work, let me know. This will be a great way for us to learn more about our neighbors and support their businesses! Send me a note if you would like to host in your home to have some fun while you showcase your business or work, or if you would like to host the quarterly JLNO.





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The Jester Warbler - March 2017 7

## <u>Jester Estates</u>

## NATURE VAICH WINTER CHORUS by Jim and Lynne Weber

Clear and bell-like, consisting of a single, quickly repeated note, the call of the male Strecker's Chorus Frog (Pseudacris streckeri) is unmistakable. In the midst of winter, especially in the peak calling season from January to early March, multiple males call at the same time, their alternating notes resulting in an unexpectedly delightful winter chorus rising up from the canyons!

Reaching an adult length of 1 to 1.5 inches, this largest chorus frog is identified by a stout gray, brown, olive, or green body, a dark brown mask-like stripe through the eye and a dark spot under the eye, dark longitudinal stripes along the back, and a deep golden or orange color in the groin. Males are slightly smaller than females and have greenish-yellow vocal sacs. The genus Pseudacris comes from the Greek pseudes meaning 'false' and akris meaning 'locust', and is likely a reference to the repeated rasping calls of most chorus frogs, which are similar to and can be mistaken for those of an insect.

Although Strecker's Chorus Frog is mainly a nocturnal frog, its call can be heard day or night. Males call as they hang on to or sit on vegetation, or from the bank above the water's surface. Typically feeding on insects, this chorus frog is seen most often in moist woodlands, rocky ravines, near streams or in swamps. While its range includes portions of Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, the individuals in Texas are of the subspecies P.s. streckeri, and occur in most counties in the eastern half of our state.

Aside from its distinctive winter chorus, Strecker's Chorus Frog is also distinguished by its ability to use its forelimbs to burrow headfirst, unlike other amphibians that typically use their hind legs to back into a burrow. It burrows deeply in sand or mud and hides under rocks and woody debris to protect itself from heat and predators, emerging mainly after heavy rains. Following these rains, it migrates a short distance to a preferred breeding site.

Strecker's Chorus Frog is a cold-tolerant, winter breeding frog, breeding anytime between November and March when rains are adequate. While most frogs prefer to breed in flowing water, Strecker's Chorus Frog prefers still, clear, temporary water bodies such as ditches, ponds, and pools in wet weather creeks. Females attach their small, jelly-covered clusters of eggs to vegetation below the water's surface, and the time to hatch, while water temperature dependent, is usually just a few days. Tadpoles take around two months to transform into adult chorus frogs. In spring, at a time when most other frogs are just beginning to seek their breeding ponds, Strecker's Chorus Frogs terminate their breeding activities.

Named after John Kern Strecker, Jr (1875 – 1933), a Texas naturalist and Curator of the Baylor University Museum (renamed the Strecker Museum in 1940 in his honor), this chorus frog with its peculiar and unusual habits and haunting winter chorus might have been a perfect candidate for "Strecker's Cabinets of Curiosities"! If you'd like to see and hear the chorus for yourself, check out the video

at https://texaswild.me/2014/03/31/streckers-chorus-frogs-calling/

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



Strecker's Chorus Frog



Strecker's Chorus Frog relative size.



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The Jester Warbler - March 2017 9

## 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

## NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE



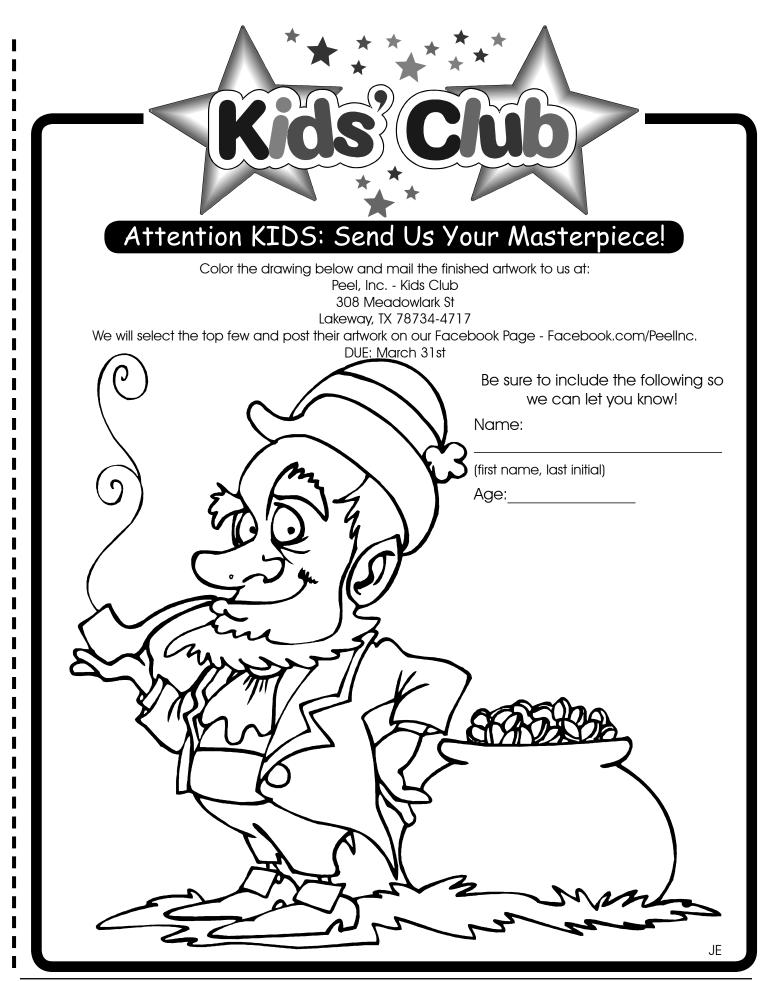
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