

Canyon Creek CHRONICLE

APRIL 2017

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4

THE CANYON CREEK CHRONICLE

*A Newsletter
for the Canyon Creek
Community*

The Canyon Creek Chronicle is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Canyon Creek residents. Each newsletter will be filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information, and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports team, social group, etc., and would like to submit an article for the newsletter, you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com. Personal news (announcements, accolades/honors/celebrations, etc.) are also welcome as long as they are from area residents.

GO GREEN! Subscribe via Peelinc.com to have an email sent to you with a link to a PDF of the newsletter, or have an email sent to you instead of having a newsletter mailed to you!



WE RUN BECAUSE THEY WALK



For up to five hours each day, women and children across rural Africa walk to fetch dirty water for their families - because that's the only choice they have if they want to survive.

This is at the heart of why Water to Thrive exists, to work towards ending the water crisis in order to stop situations like this from happening. And THIS is why we run on April 8th. Because they walk.

Our annual Pump Run 5K and Kids' K is quickly approaching, and we hope you'll join us for this family-friendly and fun event on April 8th. Hosted at Concordia University Texas, the Pump Run brings together people (and dogs!) of all ages from the Austin community to race for a cause. We will have free food, finish line vendors, and lots of kids activities for the whole family to enjoy - including a "walk for water". We have incredible sponsors who have graciously committed to supporting this event, because they believe in what we do at W2T. Take a look at our list of sponsors at thepumprun.org/sponsors.

Haven't registered yet? There's still time! Head to our race website – thepumprun.org – for more information and to sign up. Registration is \$30 for the 5K and Virtual 5K, and \$15 for the Kids' 1K. Your registration comes with a free t-shirt as well! RSVP on our Facebook event page to let us know you'll be there and to get updates in the weeks leading up to the race. Invite your friends and family, and come out to run hard, build wells, and change lives.



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Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	

SCHOOLS

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Grisham Middle School.....	512-428-2650
Westwood High School	512-464-4000

UTILITIES

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Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service.....	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies.....	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig.....	512-472-2822
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

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View the current issue of *The Canyon Chronicle* on the 1st day of each month at www.peelinc.com

Inside Austin Gardens Tour Set for May 6, 2017

By Travis County Master Gardeners Association

The Travis County Master Gardeners Association has set Saturday, May 6, 2017, 9:00am-4:00pm, for their popular Inside Austin Gardens Tour (IAGT). The tour provides a rare look inside five private gardens and one public experimental garden that demonstrate realistic, sustainable gardening practices for Central Texas that will inform and inspire.

The tour's theme remains: "For Gardeners. By Gardeners", focusing on the vast variety and practical beauty of native and well-adapted plants in the garden. In turn, each garden has a theme that highlights a particular set of characteristics Central Texas gardeners are likely to encounter in their own gardens. Those themes are:

Earth-Kind Landscaping – environmentally friendly principles and a secret garden

Wildlife Restoration, Preservation – 23 acres of fruits, veggies, beehives and miniature horses

Birds, Butterflies, and Zen – natives, natural attractors along with meditation space

Sun & Shade – sunny daylilies to die for; shady umbrellas and gingers to soothe the soul

A Journey Through Fairyland – whimsical design, a plethora of plants and a garden piano

AgriLife Testing Ground – rainwater collection, new varieties and proven winners

Wendy Buck, the 2017 IAGT Chair, described the unique nature of the tour this way: "This really is a garden tour for gardeners, by gardeners. These distinctive private gardens have never been open to the general public before. Our aim is to educate and enthuse. Interested gardeners can experience a wide array of ideas, learn the details from the Master Gardeners that created the gardens, and know how to execute those ideas successfully in their own gardens."

Native and well-adapted plants require less water and less maintenance. They survive the Central Texas environment which includes erratic swings in temperatures, high summer heat both day and night, drought, flood, clay soil, and rocky soil. And, they are remarkably varied in style and structure. Natives provide food for animals and insects while establishing a beautiful, unique sense of place. They are the foundation of all the sites on the Inside Austin Gardens Tour.

About Inside Austin Gardens Tour

Originating in 2005, the IAGT is held every 18 months by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association and Travis County AgriLife Extension Service. The one-day event features behind-the-scenes looks at gardens of Travis County Master Gardeners. As many as 2,500 people typically attend. A pass to all six gardens is \$20 in advance or \$25 on the day of the tour. Individual gardens are \$5. The event is held rain or shine from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Only service dogs are allowed. Complete information and tickets at www.INSIDEaustingardens.org.



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Dell Children's is now offering Emergency Care at
Seton Northwest Hospital.



DellChildrens.net/EmergencyCare

CALLING ALL FAMILIES!

Join the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, The Refuge Ranch and beLydia for a day of music, markets, food and carnival games...all to benefit the fight to keep children safe. On June 4, 2017 from 2pm until 7pm, Pecan Springs Ranch will become the Lost and Found Lollapalooza. All proceeds from the event help provide prevention education as well as rescue and restoration of victims of child trafficking. This G-rated event promises to be a safe, fun day for guests of all ages. Whether you want to create your own home cleaner, decorate a tee pee, play carnival games or just listen to live music and eat from the cool food trucks, the Lost and Found Lollapalooza has it all. You can even have your family's picture made, pull out your own fishing poles and fish the stocked pond or relax with a locally sourced



refreshment. The marketplace will feature jewelry, children's books, freshly baked goodies, a coffee bar, festival gear and more. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children will be on hand to help parents install mobile safety apps, and The Refuge Ranch will have tiles for painting that will eventually decorate the shelter being built. beLydia young entrepreneurs will be hosting their microbusinesses all day, too! Maybe a lemonade stand, maybe a sandal-making shop, perhaps wands and capes, these young fundraisers are working to raise money to keep their peers safe. Please join us for a wonderful, happy day that will benefit not only your family, but children throughout Central Texas and beyond. Tickets available online at Eventbrite. Contact events@beLydia.org for more information or to become a donor or event sponsor.

Give 5% to Mother Earth

Give 5% to Mother Earth is an annual Earth Day campaign that raises funds and awareness for local environmental nonprofits working to protect and preserve our natural resources in Central Texas.

Give 5 partners with more than 100 local businesses who pledge to donate 5% of sales on Friday, April 21st – in honor of Earth Day - to Give 5's 9 nonprofit beneficiaries, each of which is working to keep Austin clean, green, and healthy. This year's benefiting nonprofits

include: Hill Country Conservancy, Shoal Creek Conservancy, Austin Parks Foundation, Sustainable Food Center, Waller Creek Conservancy, Pease Park Conservancy, Treefolks, Friends of Barton Springs Pool, and Texas Campaign for the Environment Fund.

By patronizing Give 5's generous business partners on Earth Day, Austinites are helping to support these amazing causes! For a full list of participating businesses, please visit www.austingive5.org.



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NATURE WATCH

THREE TERRIFIC TREES

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Trees are often planted for their ornamental value, or to provide shade, but there are many other reasons to plant them. They improve air quality by producing oxygen and storing carbon, which offsets the harmful byproducts of burning fossil fuels. They can moderate the effects of sun and wind, reduce air conditioning costs, and clean the air by trapping dust and pollen. Trees can also be credited with increasing property values, lowering our heart rates and reducing stress, and providing shelter and food for many types of wildlife.

In Central Texas, three terrific trees that are native to our area include Escarpment Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina* var. *eximia*), Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*), and Carolina Buckthorn (*Frangula* or *Rhamnus caroliniana*). All three of these trees are medium-sized, deciduous, display fall color, and benefit wildlife by producing fruit.

Escarpment Black Cherry is a distinct variety of Black Cherry, found only on the calcareous soils in our wooded hill country canyons, slopes, and floodplains. Up to 50 feet tall, this tree is prized for its attractive silvery trunk and branches, five-inch long clusters of showy white blooms that occur in March and April, juicy summer fruits, and vivid yellow to red fall foliage. While the small dark red to purple-black cherries it produces are edible, the rest of the plant is not, and the cherries are often eaten first by birds. Several butterflies, including Viceroy, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Two-tailed Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple, and Striped Hairstreak use this tree as their host plant.

Often called the 'star of our native plums', Mexican Plum is easily recognizable in spring, as it is an early bloomer. Before the leaves appear, white to pale pink, five-petaled flowers cover the 15 to 35 foot tall tree from February to April, and they are extremely fragrant, attracting several species of native bees and butterflies. Plums up to one-inch wide turn from yellow to mauve to purple as they ripen July through September, and they are edible for humans and wildlife alike. Thick, five-inch long leaves provide food for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and Cecropia Silkmoth, and turn a showy shade of orange in autumn. Mature trunks are a beautiful satiny blue-gray with horizontal striations, typical of most fruit trees.

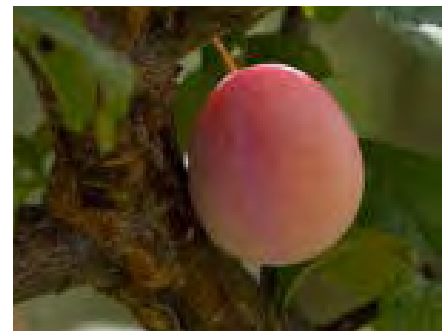
Lesser known is the Carolina Buckthorn, an understory tree 12 to 15 feet tall, with oval, shiny green leaves and small yellow clusters of blooms produced near the leaf stems in May and June. It prefers bottomlands, canyons, and streamsides, and in light shade it is airy and tiered. Bright red fruits turn to black when ripe, and are relished by many birds and mammals. The leaves stay green into late fall, turning various colors from yellow-gold to bronze-sienna as the weather cools. Carolina Buckthorn is also the host plant for Spring Azure, Gray Hairstreak, and Painted Lady butterflies.

Consider adding one or all of these terrific trees to your property. While the best time to plant trees in Central Texas is in the fall, it's never too late to plan for future enhancements to your native landscape!

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.



Escarpment Black Cherry (blooms & fruit)



Mexican Plum (blooms & fruit)



Carolina Buckthorn (blooms & fruit)



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