



BOERNE *Heights*



DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

Welcome TO BOERNE HEIGHTS

*A Newsletter for the
Boerne Heights Community*

Boerne Heights is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Boerne Heights 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!



MEET THE BOARD

The Boerne Heights Community is pleased to announce the addition of three new members to the Board of Directors: Lynnese Graves, Bobby Ryan, and Crystal Pena. The Board provides leadership for carrying out the Associations best interest. Please welcome them as Boerne Heights new leaders.



Holiday Decorating Contest!!!

Boerne Heights HOA will be selecting one home in the neighborhood for the best holiday decoration display!!!



All decorations must be up by December 21st for judging. Once judging is complete, the winner will be notified via email/telephone and announced in the upcoming newsletter.

Winner will also receive a \$100 gift card!!!!

So be sure to have your holiday decorations up and looking their best!



IMPROVEMENTS

The Board of Directors would like you to keep an eye out for a newly approved Bulletin Board. All Association news will be displayed here and is expected to be installed by the beginning of the New Year!!!

REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS *and many others...*

Full Page - \$100
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Eighth Page - \$25

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Betty Crocker Date-Filled Cookies

This recipe is from Betty Crocker's Picture Cook Book, Second Edition, 1956. My mom used Ethel's Sugar Cookie Recipe as the basic cookie.

MIX THOROUGHLY:

3/4 cup soft shortening (part butter)
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 tsp. flavoring (vanilla or lemon or a combination of the two)

Sift together and stir in:
2-1/2 cups sifted Gold Medal Flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Chill dough. Roll very thin (1/16"). Cut 3" rounds or squares. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. Place a rounded teaspoon full of cooled filling on each. Fold over like a turnover, pressing the edges together with floured fork tines.

Temperature: 400 degrees F
Time: Bake 6 to 10 minutes
Amount: About 4 doz. 3" cookies

DATE, FIG, RAISIN, OR PRUNE FILLING

Cook together slowly, stirring constantly until thickened...

2 cups dates, figs, or raisins, finely cut up, or 2 cups mashed cooked prunes (2-2/3 cups uncooked)

3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup water
Add, if desired....1/2 cup chopped nuts
Cool.

Filling is sufficient for about 5 dozen cookies.

TIS THE SEASON FOR CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ARTS PROJECTS



Make this holiday season a festive one with creative arts activities that children can do at home. Kids will enjoy the fun and easy projects that they can use as decorations or give as gifts. "Nothing makes the season more special than spending

time with family," said John D. Kemp, CEO of Very Special Arts. "Fun arts projects that parents can do with kids add special meaning to the holidays and make gifts and decorations more special than any you can buy." Very Special Arts recommends the following holiday arts activities designed for young children:

- **ALL IN THE FAMILY!** Making puppets for holiday story games: Cut out and paste photos of family members on popsicle sticks and add other decorations to make puppets. Begin by telling a story about your family with the puppets. Encourage your child to tell their part of the story. Use stories of family celebrations and everyday activities. Encourage your child's participation by asking questions such as "What happened next?" and "What do you think the person did then?" Display the puppets with your holiday decorations.

- **WRAP UP THE SEASON!** Creating handmade gift paper and holiday cards: Provide your child with water-soluble markers, crayons or paint and large sheets of paper. Encourage your child to draw a self-portrait or paint a picture of his or her favorite holiday activity. Kids can also cut simple shapes out of heavy sheets of folded paper to create a stencil. Open the stencil, place over another sheet of paper and color in the designs using markers or crayons. Help children write their own holiday message on the paper to practice writing and spelling skills. Children can then use the paper to wrap gifts or fold to make their own greeting cards.

- **KEEPSAKES FOR KIDS!** Creating a holiday book: To capture special memories, help your child create a holiday book. Provide sheets of paper, colored markers, brushes and washable paints. Turn the paper sideways and fold in half to form a book. Join your child in drawing pictures of holiday memories or family events. Guide your children in writing simple words or sentences to describe the drawing and then read their writing aloud to practice verbal skills.

- **BELLS AND WHISTLES!** Drumming up the sounds of the holidays: Have kids pick a favorite holiday song and produce the rhythm to accompany the song using homemade instruments. Use pots, pans and coffee cans to double as cymbals and drums, and add pencils and chopsticks with their ends wrapped with rubber bands for the drumsticks. To simulate the sound of bells, try a variety of bottles, partially filled with water, and tap them gently with pencils. Kids can sing along, then talk about the sounds and why the song is special to them.

DECEMBER GARDENING



Protect tender plants during freezes. Use sheets, blankets, or specially-designed row cover. Construct a cold frame or a "hoop house." Mulch, mulch, mulch! Water well before a freeze (except for prickly pear cactus). Allow hardy perennials to freeze back, and do not prune them until late winter or early spring, if you can stand it. The dead structure of the plant helps to insulate and protect the living core of the plant, and is part of the winter landscape. In addition, any pruning can stimulate tender new growth, which would be susceptible to subsequent freezes.

Last chance to plant bulbs. It is best to plant them early this month.

Plant flower/ornamental seeds. Delphinium, Larkspur, Poppy

Plant herbs. All hardy perennial herbs such as lavender, oregano, rosemary, rue, sage, and thyme; other cold-hardy annual or biennial herbs like parsley, cilantro, dill, and fennel (Dill and fennel may need some protection during freezes).

Plant annual flower/ornamental plants. Sweet alyssum, bluebonnet plants, ornamental cabbage and kale, Dianthus, Johnny jump-up, pansy, snapdragon

Plant hardy perennial plants. Some examples are agapanthus, damianita, most ferns, Mexican bush sage, Russian sage, trees, and shrubs. It is especially important, if you haven't done so already, to plant spring-blooming perennials such as columbine, coreopsis, ox-eye and shasta daisies, Salvia greggi, and wallflower.

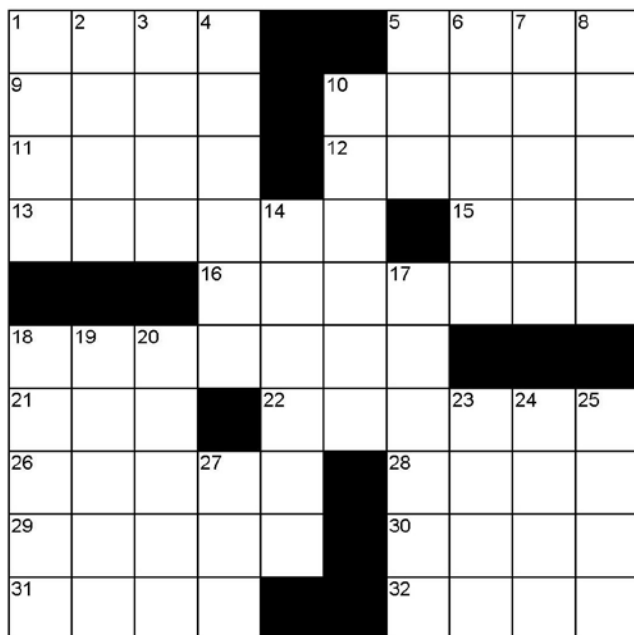
Plant ground covers and borders.

Consider purchasing a live Christmas tree for the holidays. Arizona Cypress, Aleppo, and Italian Stone pines can often be found this time of year. A trick for watering these trees indoors is to place ice cubes on top of the soil, making sure there is a sturdy saucer underneath the pot. Avoid keeping these trees indoors for any longer than two weeks..

Clean and oil gardening tools and equipment. Sharpen and repair, as necessary.

Recycle your cut Christmas tree. After the holidays, turn your Christmas tree into mulch!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Among
5. Cubby
9. Santa call (2 wds.)
10. British princess
11. Absent
12. Praise
13. Her former last name
15. Ball holder
16. Surpasses
18. Bar enforcer
21. Trail
22. Humorous
26. Bets
28. Information
29. Vista
30. Paradise
31. Animal group
32. Lady

DOWN

1. Hit
2. State
3. Tai
4. Saucy Girl
5. Tyrannosaurus
6. Speak
7. Eyed
8. Tiny insects
10. Wears mesh mask to fight
14. Tax
17. Worn
18. Cheeky
19. Small measurement 1/16 of a pound
20. Whoop
23. Cipher
24. Object
25. Walking stick
27. The ___ (final word)

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Quoted and edited for length from Library of Congress and ThoughtCo.com

Before electric Christmas lights, families would use candles to light up their Christmas trees. This was often dangerous and led to many home fires. Edison created the very first strand of electric lights. In 1880, they were strung around the outside of his Menlo Park Laboratory. Edward H. Johnson (of the Edison Company) put the very first string of electric Christmas tree lights together in 1882. He hand-wired 80 red, white and blue light bulbs and wound them around his Christmas tree. The tree also revolved.

Until 1903, when General Electric began to offer pre-assembled kits of Christmas lights, strung lights were very expensive (\$2,000) and reserved for the wealthy and electrically savvy. The wiring required the hiring of the services of a wireman, our modern-day electrician.

Albert Sadacca is credited for seeing a future in selling electric Christmas lights. The Sadacca family owned a novelty lighting company and in 1917, Albert, a teenager at the time, suggested that its store offer brightly colored strands of Christmas lights to the public. By the 1920's Albert and his brothers organized the National Outfit Manufacturers Association (NOMA), a trade association. NOMA soon became NOMA Electric Co., with its members cornering the Christmas light market until the 1960's.

Of course, incandescent lights are slowly being replaced with LED's which have the advantages of creating little heat, having longer life, and using less energy usage. While many came before and after him

in this field, Nick Holonyak of G.E. created the first visible light LED (Red). Others followed with other vital colors.

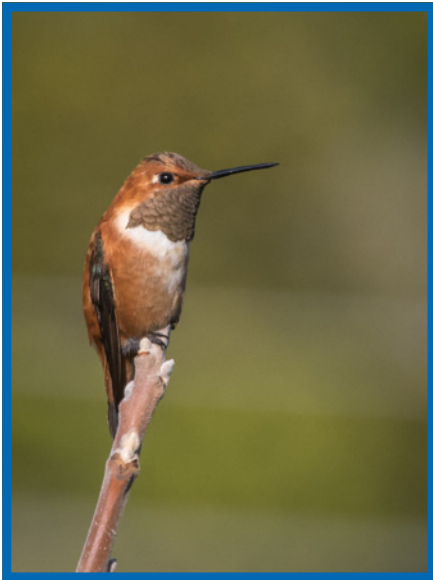


NATURE WATCH

OVERWINTERING TEXAN

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Late August into September typically marks migration season for hummingbirds, when most individuals move from their northern breeding grounds to their southern wintering grounds. Several factors affect this seasonal movement including amount of daylight, the angle of the sun relative to the bird's location, availability (or lack of) food resources, and local weather patterns. Mature birds often start their migration earlier than juveniles, and males typically migrate a few days before females. But the longest migration of any hummingbird species belongs to the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), a species that can typically travel from as far away as Alaska to spend the winter in Mexico.



Rufous Hummingbird

A fairly small hummingbird with a nearly straight, slender bill, fairly short wings that don't reach the end of the tail when the bird is perched, and a tail that tapers to a point when folded, the Rufous is like no other hummingbird in terms of color or behavior. Males are bright orange on the back and belly with a vividly iridescent copper-red throat, while females are green above with orange-washed flanks and often a spot of orange in the throat.

They are the feistiest hummingbird with a gift for fast, darting flight and exceptional maneuverability, tirelessly chasing away other hummingbirds wherever they feed. Males court females with elaborate flight displays, including J-shaped dives and nearly horizontal figure 8s.

In recent years, the Rufous has become the most common overwintering hummingbird in the southeastern United States, particularly along the Gulf Coast. For the last several years we have kept a small hummingbird feeder on our back porch filled throughout the fall and winter, and have been regularly rewarded with an overwintering Rufous. This species seems particularly able to handle the colder temperatures, perhaps because they go into 'torpor' overnight, a reduced physiological state where their body temperature and metabolic rate are reduced.

While it has been proven that this species has an excellent memory for location, which may explain why they find our feeder year after year, it remains a mystery to scientists as to why these birds don't complete their traditional fall migration to the Pacific coast of Mexico. While providing a nectar feeder does not delay a

hummingbird's migration, scientists are investigating the theory that established shifts in climate and flower-blooming times are affecting their typical patterns. Not only do these shifts appear to affect where these birds overwinter, but they also affect the timing of the clockwise circuit they make each year as they move northward up the Pacific coast in late winter and early spring, and travel southward along the chain of the Rocky Mountains in late summer. There is still much to learn about these migration patterns, and why these hummingbirds show up in places we don't expect them to stay in winter.

Regardless of reason, we feel fortunate to have our yard brightened during the colder months with this colorful visitor. Why not keep a hummingbird feeder filled in your yard this season, and you just might find you have an overwintering Texan, too!

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



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