



# BOERNE *Heights*



JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 2 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](http://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.



## CITY OF BOERNE UPDATES:

### BURN BAN IS ON FOR KENDALL COUNTY

Kendall County commissioners have reinstated a burn ban for the entire county. No outdoor burning allowed in Kendall County until further notice. Outdoor burning is never allowed in the Boerne city limits.

### GARBAGE COLLECTION ON HOLIDAYS

Boerne Utilities customers with garbage collection on Mondays should place their containers out on Saturday BEFORE the holiday. Christmas Day and New Year's Day customers should put out their waste wheelers on Saturday, Dec. 23 & Saturday, Dec. 30.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING ON ROEDER STREET?

Boerne Utilities crews have found water leaks on Roeder St. caused by a defective part connected to the water main. Crews will replace that part on all the water services on Roeder St and should finish by Dec. 29. Street repairs will follow that work.



## 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...*

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## PROPERTY MANAGER

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## NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

The truth is, crime can make way to any neighborhood, and no matter how "safe" it is. In times of economic distress, people are even more concerned about rising crime in their communities. On the bright side, there are plenty of preventative measures one can take to protect his/her home, as well as the neighborhood. The steps could be as simple as keeping the doors locked, or be more complex like starting a neighborhood watch program with your community. Even though no place is immune to crime, team work with neighbors and family members can really make a difference to minimize it. This blog provides tips on how you can keep your kids safe, and how you can be a proactive member in your community to promote safety.

Safety Committee volunteers are needed please sign up today!

- Know the people within your neighborhood. ...
- Keep your vacation dates off of social media. ...
- Make use of timers. ...
- Lock all doors and windows. ...
- Utilize blinds and curtains. ...
- Install motion-sensored lights outside of your home. ...
- Keep your neighbors informed. ...
- Be conservative with your pricey possessions.



Exciting events are coming to 2018!! Please keep an eye out for dates on several social events. Social Committee volunteer's needed sign up today!

- 2 Community Sales for the year
- Ice Cream Social
- NNO
- And more!!!

# It's ANOTHER New Year...



"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

**ANCIENT NEW YEARS:** The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about

4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring). The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary. The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison. The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

**THE CHURCH'S VIEW OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS:** Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations. During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

**NEW YEAR TRADITIONS:** Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment. The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

**AULD LANG SYNE:** The song, "Auld Lang Syne" is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."



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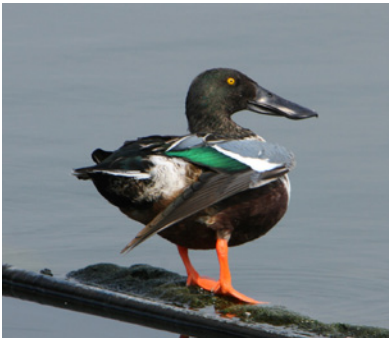


## NATURE WATCH

### DABBLERS AND DIVERS

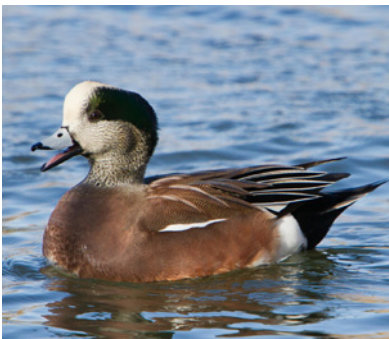
by Jim and Lynne Weber

Wintertime is the perfect time to look for ducks in Central Texas. Several species that breed far north of our state's border return to Texas in the colder months to feed in our unfrozen freshwater lakes and rivers. From the Old English 'duce', the word duck is a derivative of the verb meaning to duck or dive, or bend down low as if to get under something. It best describes the way many ducks feed, by upending or diving under the water in search of a wide variety of food sources, such as small aquatic plants, grasses, fish, insects, amphibians, worms and mollusks. Most ducks fall into either the dabbler or diver category. Dabblers feed on the surface of the water, and sometimes on land, while divers disappear completely beneath the surface and forage deep underwater. In general, divers are heavier than dabblers, which gives them the ability to submerge more easily, but they often pay the price by having more difficulty when taking off to fly.



*Northern Shoveler*

A medium-sized duck, the adult male (or drake) has an iridescent green head, rusty sides, and a white chest. When flushed from her nest, the adult female (or hen) will often defecate on the eggs, presumably to deter predators from eating them. This species of duck is monogamous, and stays together longer than any other known pairs of dabbling duck species.



*American Wigeon*

resembling a man's bald head. Its feeding behavior is distinctive among the dabbling ducks, as its short bill allows it to be much

The most distinctive dabbling duck is the Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeada*). True to its name, it possesses a two and a half inch long bill, which is spoon-shaped and has a comb-like structure called a pecten at the edge of its beak. The pecten is used to filter food from the water and to aid in preening its

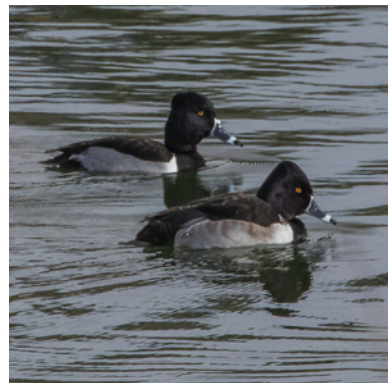
Another common dabbler is the American Wigeon (*Anas americana*), whose population is increasing throughout its range. The male has a white crown, green face patch, large white patches in its wings, and a black rear end bordered by white. At one time this duck was known as 'baldpate' due to the white crown

more efficient at plucking vegetation from both the water and sometimes even agricultural fields. The diet of this duck has been shown to include a much higher proportion of plant matter than any other dabbler species.



*Lesser Scaup*

grasped by a predator like a Gray Fox, an adult Lesser Scaup may play dead, rendering itself immobile with its head extended, eyes open, and wings folded close to its body. They are capable of diving underwater the day they are hatched, but are too buoyant to stay under for long, until maturity gives them the body composition and strength they need to stay underwater for longer periods of time.



*Ring-necked Ducks*

a black chest, back, and rear end, with grey sides and a white stripe up the shoulder.

The next time you visit a lake, river, or pond this winter, venture out to the quiet corners to see if you can spot one of our best known dabblers or divers!

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto: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](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).

Among the most abundant and widespread freshwater diving ducks is the Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). The male has a slight bump or peak on the back of the head, a bluish bill with a small black tip, grey sides (black on the ends with white in the middle), and a black head, chest, and rear end. When

Usually found on smaller, calmer bodies of water like ponds, Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*) are more readily identified by the bold white ring around their bill that the subtle purplish band around their necks for which they are named. A medium-sized diving duck, they also have a small bump or peak on the back of their black heads, with the male having

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## RECLUSE SPIDERS

Recluse spiders are shy and, as their name suggests, do not like being out in the open. They are about the size of a quarter, with a body that is 1/2 inch long. They can be light brown, dark brown or greyish in color. They have no spines on their legs and usually have a uniform body color. Recluse spiders are known for their characteristic violin or fiddle-shaped marking on the "back" (a.k.a. cephalothorax...the front part of the spider). The real distinguishing feature is an eye pattern of three pairs of eyes arranged in a semicircle on the front of the cephalothorax.



Outside homes, recluse spiders can be found in garages or sheds, firewood piles, or piles of stored materials such as lumber, bricks, or rocks. Inside the home, these spiders are found in bedrooms, closets,

bathrooms, under furniture, behind baseboards, in attics, or in cracks and crevices. They are most active at night when hunting for food.

People are typically bitten by accidentally rolling over onto a spider while sleeping or trapping a spider next to skin when putting on clothing where the spider is hiding. Recluse spiders have a cytotoxin that breaks down tissue in the bite area. Several hours after being bitten a blister forms at the bite site that may grow in size as tissue breaks down from injected venom. Infected tissue eventually sloughs off, leaving an open wound that takes a while to heal. More serious symptoms may also occur such as chills, fever, fatigue, joint pain, or nausea. If you experience problems after being bitten by a spider, then seek medical attention immediately.

To avoid spider bites, try some (or all) of the following:

- Use sticky taps to capture spiders
- Remove bed skirts from beds (these make it easy for spiders to crawl into the bed)
- Don't leave clothes or blankets on the floor; shake out blankets and clothing before using
- When storing items, either use sealed plastic containers/bags or tape boxes on all seams to keep spiders out
- Wear leather gloves when cleaning in undisturbed closets, attics, garages, or the yard
- Keep stacked, stored items away from the home. Do not store firewood against the house and only bring in firewood to immediately place on a fire.



## Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club

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Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

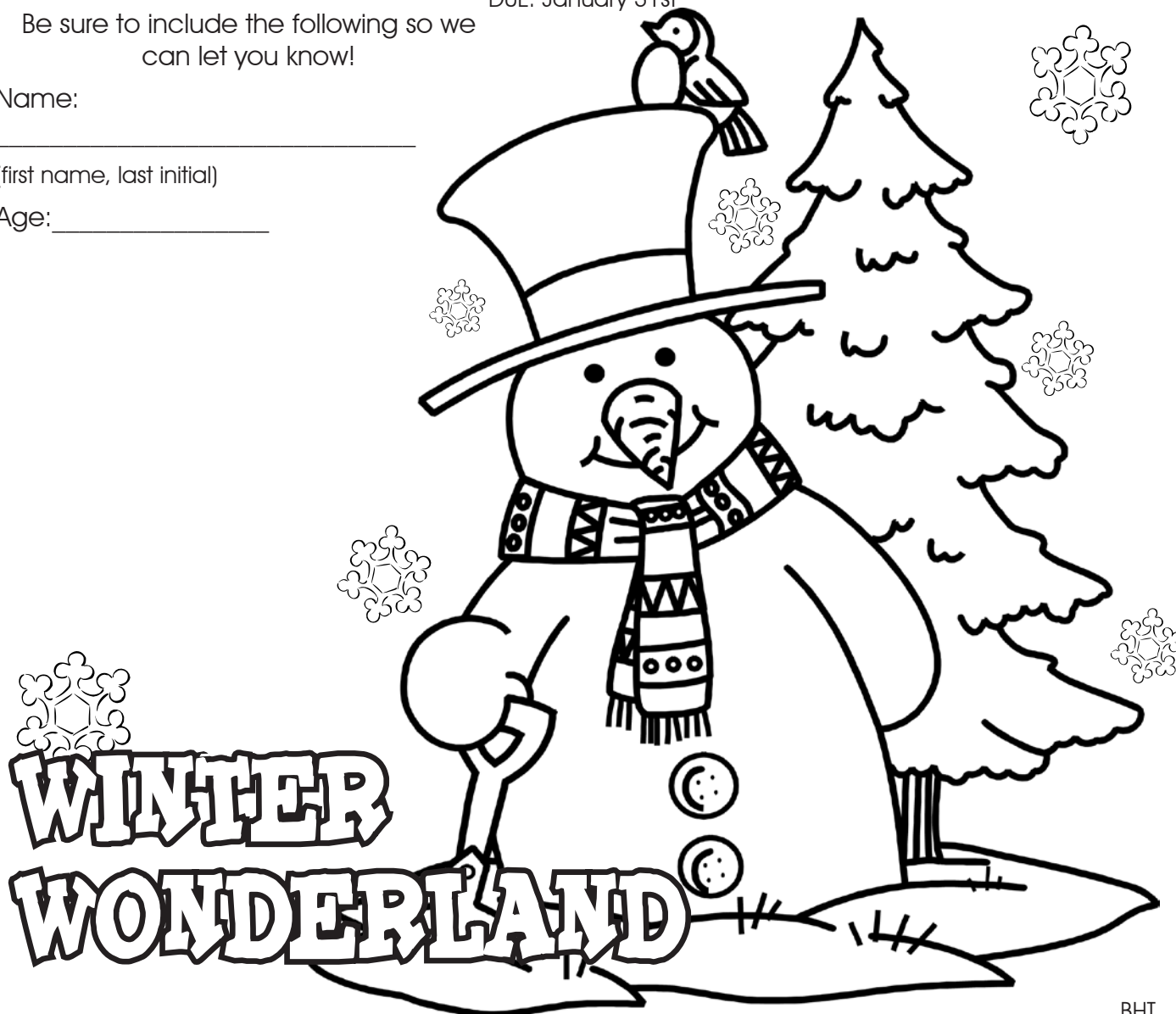
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