



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.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

Northwest Harris County Aggie Moms' Club

WWW.NWHCAGGIEMOMS.ORG

Scholarship opportunity for current Aggie students!!! If your permanent address is within our zip code service area, your student can apply for a chance to be awarded a scholarship for the coming school year. Please check our website for the application and details; due date is Feb 6, 2018. Don't delay, since a letter of recommendation is required.



Scholarships are awarded at the April meeting.

And don't forget to come check out the Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club!! We meet the second Tuesday of every month (Aug-May), at the Houston Distributing Company, 7100 High Life Drive, Houston, Texas. Socializing starts at 6:30 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. We have a lot of fun in our quest to support our Aggie students! Gig 'Em and God Bless!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CGNOA Recreation Center	281-290-6723
Guard House.....	281-357-4183

SCHOOLS

Tomball Independent School Dist.	281-357-3100
Willow Creek Elementary	281-357-3080
Canyon Pointe Elementary.....	281-357-3122
Northpointe Intermediate	281-357-3020
Willow Wood Junior High	281-357-3030
Tomball High School	281-357-3220
Tomball Memorial High School.....	281-357-3170

PROPERTY TAX

Harris County Tax.....	713-224-1919
Mud #280 and Mud #15.....	281-376-8802
NW Harris WCID	281-376-8802

POLICE & FIRE

Emergency	911
Harris County Sheriff (Non Emergency)	713-221-6000
Klein Vol. Fire Dept.	281-376-4449

MEDICAL

Tomball Regional Medical Center	281-401-7500
Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.....	281-477-1000
Houston Northwest Medical Center	281-440-1000
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-586-4700
Texas Sports Medicine Center	281-351-6300
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com)	281-378-0800

UTILITIES

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MAKE YOUR HEALTH A TOP PRIORITY IN 2018

Eating healthier and losing weight are common New Year's resolutions. However, keeping them can be difficult. Family medicine physician, Toni Odumosu, M.D., with Memorial Hermann Medical Group Fairfield, offers these tips for making your health resolutions last all year long.

1. **Start with a big, measurable goal.** Make your goal specific and easy to track, like losing a specific amount of weight, exercising a specific number of days, or eating a certain amount of vegetables daily.

2. **Then set small goals.** Look at your overall goal, and then break it down into smaller weekly and monthly goals. You won't run a marathon tomorrow, but you may be able to run one mile.

3. **Don't do it alone.** Find a friend to be your workout buddy or enlist help from a professional like a nutritionist or personal trainer. Tell your friends and family about your goals so that they can help hold you accountable.

4. **Display your motivation.** Is there certain event you want to participate in or attend that is the motivation behind your goal? Or perhaps a loved one who inspired the change? Put a photo of what's motivating you somewhere you'll see it every day. That can help fight temptation, because temptation will come!

5. **Don't be afraid to celebrate!** Celebrating the small goals can energize you to continue towards the big goal. However, be mindful that your "prize" doesn't derail you from achieving the goal you set.

"It's also a good idea to talk with your primary care physician when you're in the goal setting process. Your doctor can help you make sure your goals are realistic and achievable for your current health level. He or she may also have additional tips and resources that can help you along the way," encourages Dr. Odumosu.

NORTHWEST FLYERS YOUTH TRACK CLUB HOLDS REGISTRATION FOR 31ST SEASON

The Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club will celebrate its 31st Anniversary Season by hosting its annual free Registration/Orientation breakfast on Saturday, February 3rd, 2018, for all boys and girls who are interested in joining for the 2018 track season. The breakfast starts promptly at 8:30 AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum located at 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

The event is an opportunity for youth athletes to register for the 2018 spring/summer track season, and to meet the Northwest Flyers coaches, staff, and other new and returning athletes. The event will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic organization (USATF). All athletes and parents who wish to join the Northwest Flyers must attend the orientation.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (ages 6 -18) track club, affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF), that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and sanctioned "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus and javelin.

For additional information on the Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org>; contact Linette Roach at linette.roach@sbcglobal.net; or "Like" the club on Facebook.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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and I look forward to serving you again in the new year.

I wish you a prosperous and wonderful 2018!



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National Charity League Cypress Gem Chapter

Twenty-two young women in the senior class of the Cypress Gems Chapter of National Charity League were recently recognized for their outstanding community service. At a formal event held in the Norris Conference Center, the Cypress Gems graduating class of 2018 were presented by their families and honored for their contributions to their chapter and their communities.

National Charity League is a mother-daughter service organization committed to fostering the mother-daughter relationship through community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences. Alongside their mothers, the 2018 class have performed over 3,000 hours of community service. Their work has benefitted multiple Houston area nonprofit organizations such as Reach Unlimited, Houston Food Bank, and Cy-Hope Disaster Relief. The Cypress Gems chapter comprises girls attending Cypress Ranch, Cypress Woods, Cypress Fairbanks and Bridgeland High Schools.

Elizabeth Franklin, Cypress Gems Chapter President stated, "I

could not be more proud of these senior girls and the accomplishments they have achieved over the past year. Every single one of them have worked hard to be remarkable role models for our younger members and to truly demonstrate the embodiment of what NCL is about. Our chapter will forever cherish their commitment and dedication as we have grown together to accomplish our goals as Cypress Gems."

The Class of 2018 Cypress Gems TickTockers as pictured are:

Front Row Left to Right - Isabel Ray, Maren Mullally, Jessica Sackschewsky, Madison Kippes, Madison Gvist

Middle Row Left to Right - Erica Barfield, Julia Rock, Katy Thomas, Hannah Haesly, Kathryn Motsinger, Emily Estes, Lexi Angelica, Ashley Bruton

Back Row Left to Right - Caitlyn Schade, Hallie Bruton, Sarah Theriot, Shannon Hebert, Maggie Lucas, Lexie Hluchanek, Jensen MacLeod, Anna Kolodziejcyk, BeckyClark



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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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MEET IRIS

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Let me introduce you to Iris, our 9-year-old Eastern Screech Owl. She makes her home at TWRC Wildlife Center and is a “gal about town”. As one of our Animal Ambassadors, she can often be seen at schools, churches and community events throughout the Houston area.

Iris was just a few days old when a rescuer found her on the ground. Our vet staff could see that one of her eyes wasn't developing

properly. After being examined by a specialist, it was discovered that she was blind in that eye. Knowing that owls can still survive in the wild with only one eye, a dedicated rehabilitator worked with her to prepare her for release. With her eye problem and some other issues that developed, it was decided that it was in the best interest of Iris not to release her and instead “promote” her to an Animal Ambassador.

Iris lives a pretty good life. She is served with frozen mice that have been warmed. She goes to the “beauty shop” every couple of months to get her nails done (actually they're called talons) and get her beak trimmed and shaped. She is also given a thorough examination to make sure she is healthy. We are grateful to Dr. White at Briarcrest Veterinary Clinic who donates his time to the Center to care for Iris and our other Animal Ambassadors. In the wild, Screech Owls live an average of 12 years but because Iris doesn't have to face the challenges of life in the wild, she is expected to live well beyond 12 years of age.

Screech owls have a unique call. One source described it as a horse on helium. They let out a descending whinny capped off with a trill. If you come to our Center to visit, she may even “talk” to you. One of her favorite things is to do is to respond to sirens she hears. As soon as she hears a siren, she starts in. Wish we could read her mind to find out why she does that.

Iris and her handlers are available to come and talk to your group, your school, your church or other gatherings. If you would like pricing information, send an email to education@twrcwildlifecenter.org.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) organization.
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How can I get in Ski-Shape?

By Kelly Cunningham, MD, Sports Medicine specialist

Dr. Cunningham spent 15 years as a traveling doctor for the men's Olympic downhill team, accompanying the athletes throughout the US, Canada and Europe on the World Cup tour. He was able to pick up tips from some of the world's finest altitude athletes and their trainers.

Ski conditioning begins about 6 weeks prior to travel, and involves three phases:

Muscle training, Stamina & Agility

Muscle training for the skier or boarder utilizes stretching, closed & open-chain strengthening exercises, and emphasizing the core muscle groups of the spine, hips, quadriceps & hamstrings. For most recreational athletes, low-weight/high-repetition sets will be best. Another option may be a personal trainer or workout club pro to help you design a program to strengthen your core without over-stressing your joints. Joint pain is a common skier injury so muscle training will aid in prevention.

Stamina is crucial for a recreational athlete, especially at altitude. (That's another discussion for later!) Cardio conditioning can be as simple as running, jumping on a bike or elliptical, preferably using "interval" periods to increase your

heart rate. Sports like tennis, swimming, and basketball have built-in interval training as part of the sport.

Speaking of sports, these are great for honing the athletic agility that helps prevent ski injury, especially at the end of a long, fatiguing ski or snowboarding day. These are "ski-adaptive" sports. "Ski-specific" training involves side-to-side training tools that focus on the specific ski muscles and coordination. Slide boards, closed-chain waist belt regimens, in or out of ski boots, are popular.

The goal is to decrease fatigue-related injury but also to increase your enjoyment, help you relax, and enjoy the sport!

If you have a history of joint pain or arthritis (DJD), consider your options before you head to the slopes—perhaps 3 to 4 weeks before your trip, you might want to explore PRP or stem cell injectable treatments in Austin as a autologous, potentially regenerative medicine alternative to steroids to ensure that you get the most out of your trip.

Austin, Texas, resident Kelly Cunningham, MD is board certified by the American College of Orthopedic Surgeons, and an active member of the Arthroscopy Association of North America and the International Cartilage Repair Society





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Cheers!

MAY IT BE A MEMORABLE ONE.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



CANYON GATE AT NORTHPOINTE MARKET REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2017*

Homes SOLD to date 2017	3
Avg Days on Market	93
Avg Sales Price	\$253,267
Average List Price vs	
Sales Price Ratio	99%
*Data is from HAR for 11-1-17 through 11-30-17	
As of December 1, 2017:	
Homes Currently for Sale	12
Price Range	\$174,900 - \$299,900
Homes Under Contract 3	
Option Pending	0
Price Range	-
Pending Sales	0
Price Range	-
Pending	3
Price Range	\$221,000 - \$269,900

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