

# Canyon Creek CHRONICLE

JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

## LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE... BARKING DOGS BE HUSHED!

Canyon Creek has been receiving complaints regarding nuisance dog barking. Dogs bark...this is what they do...this is how they communicate. However, barking dogs encourage other dogs to bark, that might not otherwise do so. Pretty soon there's a cacophony of barking that is not music to your neighbor's ears. Problems arise in a neighborhood when a dog barks incessantly and the constant barking causes a nuisance and inappropriate behavior. If you spend a lot of time away from home working, traveling, etc., you may not realize what the pooches are doing while you're away. In most cases, the 3 main reasons for problem barking are: loneliness/separation anxiety, insufficient training and neglect. If you own a dog please be sure that it does not become a nuisance. Ultimately it is up to the dog owner to accept responsibility and actively pursue a solution to the nuisance barking. There is plenty of advice on the internet to help with reshaping your dog's nuisance behavior via proper training and obedience classes. And...there are humane devices to stop the barking whether it's your dog or the neighbors.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

If you are on the receiving end of the nuisance barking ask yourself these questions.

1. Am I losing sleep?
2. Is it negatively affecting my health and/or wellbeing?
3. Is it affecting my personal relationships?
4. Can I hear it in my home with or without the windows closed?
5. Does it disrupt the enjoyment of my front and/or back yard?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you owe it to yourself and

your family to contact the dog owner.

If you have a problem with a neighbor's barking dog(s) and feel comfortable in doing so, you may approach them neighbor to neighbor and say something like: "Your dog has been barking for 2 hours solid and I just wanted to be sure everything is ok". (Dogs have been known to bark incessantly when their owner has been incapacitated and unable to call for help.) It also will help if you can enlist other neighbors that may be "suffering in silence".

If you do not feel comfortable speaking to your neighbor or they are unresponsive, you may contact the HOA manager at [Manager@canyoncreek.net](mailto:Manager@canyoncreek.net)

**You may view the pet policies for Canyon Creek at the HOA website:** <http://www.canyoncreek.net/bark/>

You will find that nuisance barking is a violation of community rules and city ordinance.

### SOME POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO DOG BARKING:

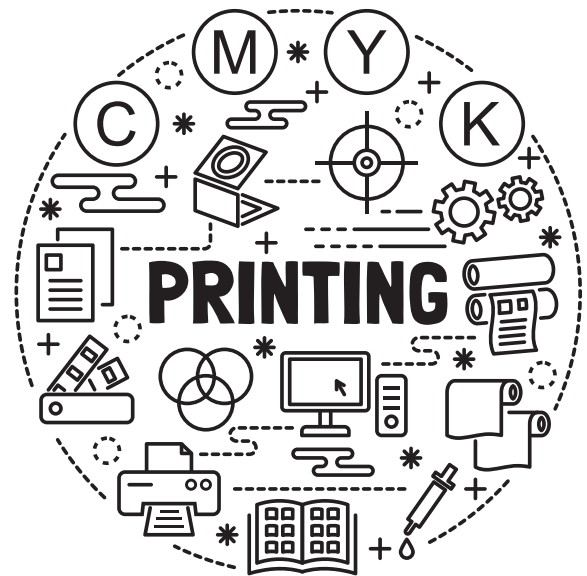
1. ULTRASONIC bark control devices/collars (humane, non-shock)
2. BARK ENDER – is a company that will anonymously contact your neighbor/dog owner by mail, informing them of the problem, solutions and possible legal consequences. Cost: \$14.95 plus S&H at [barkender.com](http://barkender.com)
3. Quit it! Instant Pet Trainer can be found at PetsMart for \$10.99. It is a 4 ounce aerosol can that hisses.



Dear Neighbors,

On Friday, December 1st, my granddaughter was returning home from H-E-B around 11:30pm. She is very conscious of adhering to traffic laws and rules. Coming down Boulder Lane (west side), she was traveling the appropriate speed for the residential neighborhood when she noticed a car was following rather closely. She continued home and the car followed her all the way to our street. We live on Epic Court. This person stopped his car at the top of the hill (intersection of Epic Court and Tibee), got out of his car and waited for her to get out of her car. He was walking back and forth and when he saw her get out of her car, he began yelling at her, threatening her and said to her (in a loud and screaming voice), "OH SO IT WAS YOU WHO WAS GOING SLOW!!! Be lucky you're not a man. You f\*\*\*\*\*ing b\*\*\*\*\*h!"

Needless to say, she got very shaken and scared by this incident. I just wanted to report this to the neighborhood so other people will be aware that I believe we have this person living in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, all she knows about him is that he is Caucasian and he was driving a small red car. If anyone knows who this person is or if anyone else has had a similar incident, perhaps, we need to report this person to the police. My name is Melvin Collins and again, we live on Epic Court. My phone number is 512-845-5957.



**512.263.9181**  
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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.



## THE BACK PORCH

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THIS IS THE BACK PORCH

### SCRATCH KITCHEN

### WOOD FIRED OVEN

### LATE NIGHT

<h3 style="margin: 0; color: #0070C0;">IN HOUSE BAKERS</h3>	<h3 style="margin: 0; color: #0070C0;">BRUNCH LUNCH DINNER</h3>	<h3 style="margin: 0; color: #0070C0;">FREE APPETIZER</h3> <p style="margin: 0; color: #0070C0;">with the purchase of two entrees Good thru 2/13/2018</p>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em; color: #0070C0;">ADDRESS</div> <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>12233 FM 620 N. Ste. 104</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Austin, TX 78750</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>(512) 428-4047</b></p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em; color: #0070C0;">HOURS</div> <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Monday - Friday</b> 11am - 12am</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Saturday - Sunday</b> 10am - 12am</p> </div> </div>	

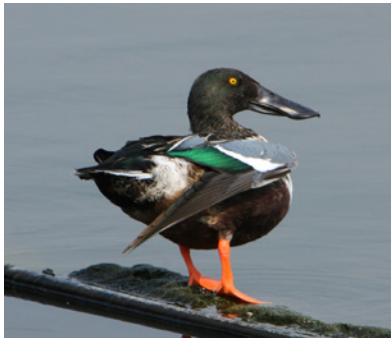


## NATURE WATCH

### DABBLERS AND DIVERS

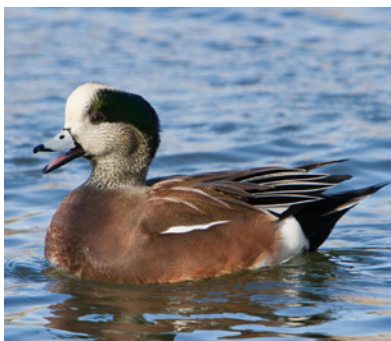
by Jim and Lynne Weber

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

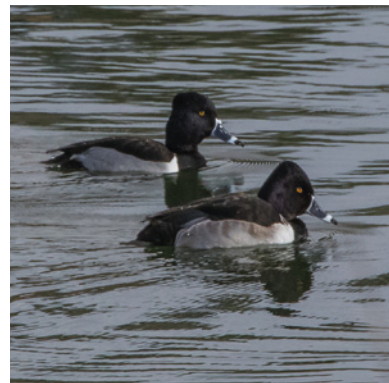
feathers. Another common dabbler is the American Wigeon (*Anas americana*), whose population is increasing throughout its range. The male has a white crown, green face patch, large white patches in its wings, and a black rear end bordered by white. At one time this duck was known as 'baldpate' due to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

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 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).

## WHAT'S IN SEASON AT THE WILDFLOWER CENTER?

*Submitted by Amy McCullough, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Photography by Joseph A. Marcus (bushy bluestem) and Lee Clippard (Texas persimmon)*

Here's what's likely to be blooming, fruiting or setting seed in Central Texas this time of year. Look for these native plants around town, at the Wildflower Center and perhaps in your own backyard!

### **DWARF PALMETTO** (SABAL MINOR)

It's not often that nature works in straight lines, but it sure is easy to imagine the sleek fronds of dwarf palmetto coming right off an architect's drafting table, fashioned from ruler and pen with a careful eye for angles and rays, light and shadow. One of only four native Texas palms, *Sabal minor* tolerates poor-draining soil, is hardy in cold weather (for a *Sabal*), and adds striking variety to a garden's damp, shady areas — its broad, stemless leaves waving hello from ground level. Once established, this fan-shaped palm is surprisingly drought tolerant, and its spherical blue-black fruit contrasts beautifully with those parallel lines. Not sure how to wear stripes and dots together? Ask a dwarf palmetto!



### **EVERGREEN SUMAC** (RHUS VIRENS)

This evergreen is more of a "very-briefly-not-green," considering that *Rhus virens* goes about a week between dropping winter leaves and sporting a coat of fresh growth. But we'll take it! When many branches in the landscape are bare, this sumac offers glossy green foliage and — even better — fuzzy red fruit. That festive fruit (which is said to make a tart, refreshing tea) appears in late fall and can persist through winter, brightening up landscapes like handfuls of candy suspended in midair. What's more, this shrub is fast growing, drought tolerant and generally easygoing, meaning it isn't bothered by many pests or diseases. Good looks, tough attitude and zest, to boot. What more could you ask for?

Find these plants at the Wildflower Center and learn more about them at [wildflower.org/plants-main](http://wildflower.org/plants-main).



## DOCENTS WANTED!

What's a docent, you ask? Docents are volunteer superstars who represent the Wildflower Center and serve the public by answering questions, giving tours, working with children's groups and serving as ambassadors to visitors from all over the world. They learn about native plants, Center history, gardening and more during training that combines classroom and field studies with self-scheduled experiential learning. Being a Wildflower Center docent is a truly rewarding experience! Our next docent training begins in February 6, 2018. Learn more at [wildflower.org/volunteer/docent-opportunities](http://wildflower.org/volunteer/docent-opportunities)



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## NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

# 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](mailto:education@twrcwildlifecenter.org).

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
[www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org)

## Lake Travis Republican Club



Christi Craddick, Chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas will be the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of the Lake Travis Republican Club to be held at the Hills Club on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 11:30 am. A buffet lunch will be served.

Since her tenure on the Commission began in 2012, Craddick has pushed to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of an energy industry that is driving the state's unparalleled economic success. She has repeatedly proven that sensible regulations, careful listening and plain talk can foster innovation that has solidified Texas leadership in the energy sector.

Making it a top priority, Christi has worked to educate the public about the oil and gas industry and its impact in Texas,

and has continually fought against Washington's one-size-fit-all environmental policies that would kill jobs and stifle energy production growth.

A native of Midland, Christi earned both her Bachelor's Degree and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from UT in Austin. She currently resides in Austin with her daughter, and is an active member of St. John Catholic Church.

Tickets for the meeting are \$15.00 for members, and \$20.00 for guests. Reservations can be obtained by calling 512-660-5208 or by email at [lmchristianv@verizon.net](mailto:lmchristianv@verizon.net).



# REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

*and many others...*

- Avery Ranch
- Bee Cave
- Belterra
- Canyon Creek
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
- Forest Creek
- Highland Park West Balcones
- Jester Estates
- Ladera
- Lakeway
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Meridian
- Northwest Austin Civic Association
- Parkside at Mayfield Ranch
- Plum Creek
- River Place
- Rocky Creek
- Sendera
- Steiner Ranch
- Spicewood
- Sweetwater
- Tarrytown
- Teravista
- Travis Country West
- Villages of Western Oaks
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