



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 2018

Volume 13, Issue 3

JESTER EASTER EGG HUNT & PETTING ZOO

**Saturday, March 24th
9:30 am @ Jester Club**

(Note: This is the weekend before Easter weekend!)

Please drop off ONE DOZEN EGGS PER CHILD (filled with candy, money, stickers, etc...but no chocolate, please!)

Look for drop-off signs posted at various locations in the neighborhood a few days prior to the event.



NATURE WATCH

MARVELOUS MAHONIAS

by Jim and Lynne Weber



Agarita showing its simple trifoliate leaflets.

One of the constant debates in the botany world is whether or not the genus Mahonia should stand alone or be included in the genus Berberis. This discussion is based on the fact that several species in both genera are able to hybridize, and when viewed as a whole, no consistent separation exists except for simple versus compound leaves. Taxonomy debate aside, the two most marvelous Mahonias in Texas are the well-known Agarita (*Mahonia trifoliata*) and the lesser-known Texas Barberry (*Mahonia swaseyi*).

Also called Agarito, Algerita, Laredo Mahonia, Laredo Oregon-grape, Trifoliata Barberry, and Texas Wild Currant, Agarita is a 3 to 8 foot evergreen, thicket-forming shrub with gray-green to blue-gray simple leaves composed of 3 leaflets. Holly-like, each lobe of the leaflets ends in a sharp spine, and the woody stems are bright yellow inside. Small yellow flowers appear in February and March, followed by red, berry-like fruits from May to July. Agarita grows throughout most of South-Central and West Texas, and prefers hills, rocky slopes, and open woods that have well-drained but rocky, limestone soils. Songbirds and small mammals will eat the fruits, and use the prickly plant for cover. In West Texas Agarita is used as a larval host plant for the Chinati Sheepmoth, one of our native wild silk moths.



'Texas Barberry has a more compound leaf structure.

Texas Barberry, also known as Texas Oregon-grape, is a 3 to 5 foot evergreen shrub with 3 inch long compound leaves composed of 2 to

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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

Once again this month, we saw the winter effect, with fewer people moving in. It seems to be the time of year to do renovations, and it's certainly great to do them before moving. Both of the Welcome Bags we were able to deliver were on our list only because they were known to Welcome Committee members Janice Toreki and Naomi Ritchie. Normally we don't hear about a sale unless it went through MLS so we were lucky this time.

Even, Elena, and their children Elle and Ashton relocated to the 7900 block of High Hollow from the UK; before that San Francisco. They had owned this house on High Hollow but were just able to move in, and are excited to finally be in Jester.

Dave and Fran retired and moved to Teak Cove, joining their son Jason. They moved from Findlay, Ohio, and were surprised to find Austin having such a cold winter! Their three sons and Dave's mother are now in Austin. They've been welcomed by all the Teak Cove neighbors, who have assured them this winter was extraordinarily cold.

If you live near any new residents, please stop by and introduce yourself! Also, please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 484-7588 or jawelles1@gmail.com if you've moved to Jester lately and we haven't welcomed you officially. We may have tried to deliver a bag to you but not found you home.

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(Continued from Cover)

4 leaflet pairs and one terminal leaflet. The leaflet edges have spiny teeth and prominent veins on their lower surface. From February to April yellow flowers appear, producing small orange-red fruits in early summer. In addition to its leaf arrangement, Texas Barberry differs from Agarita in terms of range. While it occurs in the Edwards Plateau and in one location in the Texas Panhandle, it is endemic to the Hill Country region, where it grows in full sun to light shade on ridges with rocky, limestone soil. Texas Barberry is also rare and much less common than Agarita, and its foliage turns reddish-purple in the fall.

While both of these species of plants are often grown for their spiny evergreen foliage and yellow flowers in early spring, their fruits are edible for humans (as well as wildlife) and are rich in vitamin C, and have been used to make jellies, pies, cobbles, and wines. While edible, the fruits are highly acidic and should not be eaten raw in large quantities. Additionally, the wood of these species has been used as a light yellow dye for wool.

Whether you are looking for a barrier plant, wildlife cover, early bloomer, edible fruits, or just something evergreen that requires little care, look no further than our native, marvelous Mahonias!

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* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing diana0777@att.net or by going to: www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php.

All news must be received by the 12th of the month prior to the issue.



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Jester Girl Scout Earns Award

by Becky Carter

Jester's own Girl Scout Cadette, Tina Carter, earned her Silver Award working with Camp Kachina to improve their sailing program. In order to give campers more time on the water she made sailboat dollies that allow the boats to be more easily moved from the storage area to the water line. In addition to making the program more fun, it also makes it safer, removing many dangers to both campers and boats.

Tina created the dolly of her own design, reverse engineered from one she saw online, but adapted to meet the unique issues of the rocky terrain of Camp Kachina. Tina has sailed with her troop, Troop 350, and with the Mariners' Program at Camp Kachina numerous times, and realized how difficult hauling boats is, without the proper equipment.



Jester Girl Scout, Tina Carter

SEND US YOUR EVENT PICTURES

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to diana0777@att.net Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.





ATTENTION KIDS: SEND US YOUR MASTERPIECE!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:
Peel, Inc. - Kids Club

308 Meadowlark St. Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

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

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

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March Events



Compliments of ... Teresa Gouldie 751-8000 Coldwell Banker, United

Mar. 3 -	Sherwood Forest Faire - (weekends)	sherwoodforestfaire.com
Apr. 22	<i>A medieval good time for the whole family</i>	
Mar. 9 - 18	South by Southwest Music and Film Festival - One of the	sxsw.com
	<i>most diverse, collaborative and inventive communities in the world</i>	
Mar. 10 - 24	Rodeo Austin - Where weird meets western	rodeoaustin.com
Mar. 11	Nickelodeon's Bubble Guppies Live	The Long Center
	<i>Featuring music, comedy and audience participation</i>	thelongcenter.org
Mar. 15 - 17	SXSW Outdoor Concert Series	Lady Bird Lake
	<i>Free series of concerts benefitting charity</i>	sxsw.com
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Festival Austin	stpatricksdayaustin.com
	<i>An authentic display of Irish culture and pride</i>	
Mar. 18	Bill Murray, Jan Vogler & Friends	The Long Center
	<i>A fascinating encounter between great music and great literature</i>	thelongcenter.org
Mar. 20	Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo	The Moody Theater
	<i>Four-time Grammy winner with musician/songwriter husband</i>	acl-live.com
Mar. 21	Bret Michaels - Multi-platinum global superstar	oneworldtheatre.org
Mar. 23 - 25	Spring Home & Garden Show - Get your home projects solved	showtechnology.com
Mar. 24	Mighty Texas Dog Walk	servicedogs.org
	<i>Dress to impress - This year's theme - Carnival!</i>	
Mar. 24 - 25	Pirelli World Challenge - This is how racing should be	circuitoftheamericas.com
Mar. 29 - 30	Cirque Eloize: Saloon - An acrobatic comedy	thelongcenter.org
Mar. 30	1964 The Tribute - Experience a Beatles concert the way it	One World Theatre
	<i>was performed over 50 years ago</i>	oneworldtheatre.org
Mar. 30 - 31	Urban Music Festival	Auditorium Shores
	<i>Mix it up with hip-hop, R&B and DJs at this family-friendly event</i>	urbanmusicfest.com

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