

Volume 8, Issue 4 **April** 2018

THE VOICE

A Newsletter for the Teravista Community

The Voice is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Teravista 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!



INTRODUCING "GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS"

We are all very fortunate to call Teravista a sense of belonging and shared identity. home. But, Teravista is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming to Know Your Neighbors" which we hope with family-friendly neighborhoods, chock-full of fascinating, talented people. Our variety is what makes us so both happier neighborhood for everyone. unique and extraordinary. However, sometimes, we get so busy, we lose sight of how interesting and diverse we've become.

people who live nearby will help us create

We have created a column entitled, "Get will strengthen connections, build trust in our wider community, and contribute to a

If you know of a person or a family that you believe is making Teravista a better place to live, please let us know. We would We believe that getting to know the like to introduce them to your neighbors.

Round Rock New Neighbors

Round Rock New Neighbors is a nonprofit social club for women with over 180 members from Round Rock and surrounding communities. Since 1978, RRNN has been active in providing women the opportunities to come together and meet new friends and neighbors. The name may fool you, but you do not have to be new to the area to join the fun. We have new members who have lived in Round Rock for many years. All women are welcome!

You are cordially invited to attend one of our monthly luncheons and coffees. To find out more about these events and who to contact, please visit our website at www. rrnewneighbors.org

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Select option 1 twice to get directly to dispatch
Round Rock Police (Non Emergency) 512-218-5515 Georgetown Police (Non Emergency) 512-390-3510 Travis County Animal Control 512-972-6060 Round Rock Animal Control 512-218-5500 Georgetown Animal Control 512-930-3592 SCHOOLS Round Rock ISD 512-464-5000 Teravista Elementary School 512-704-0500 Hopewell Middle School 512-464-5200 Stony Point High School 512-943-5000 Carver Elementary School 512-943-5070 Pickett Elementary School 512-943-5050 Tippit Middle School 512-943-5040 Georgetown High School 512-943-5100
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OTHER NUMBERS
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Round Rock Community Library512-218-7000
Round Rock Parks and Recreation512-218-5540
City of Georgetown512-930-3652
Georgetown Public Library512-930-3551
Georgetown Municipal Airport512-930-3666
Georgetown Parks and Recreation512-930-3595
Teravista Golf and Ranch House512-651-9850
Teravista Residents Club512-310-7421
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LADYBIRD BEETLES

TEXAS A&M GRILIFE

Ladybird beetles, also known as ladybugs, are beneficial insects that EXTENSION Can help tac people. While they help to control various can help eat pests in the landscape.

soft-bodied insect pests, they are best known for eating aphids in the adult and larval stage. One ladybug can eat up to 5,000 aphids during its lifetime. Ladybugs may supplement their diet with flower nectar and honeydew in times when prey is scarce.





Ladybug eggs

Ladybug larva





Ladybug pupa

Ladybug adult

Ladybugs have a complete life cycle with four life stages- egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Adults come in a variety of sizes and colors. They are oval with a domed body shape, are brightly colored, and have contrasting markings. After mating, female adults lay eggs in clusters on plants, usually near aphids, mealybugs, or scale insects. The eggs are yellowish-orange and look like footballs sitting up on end. Larvae emerge from eggs to feed on the insects that are found nearby. Larvae are alligator-shaped, and often greyish-black with bright markings. Larvae feed on insect prey for several weeks before pupating on the plant. The pupae are non-feeding, non-moving, and are unprotected by a cocoon.

To conserve the ladybugs that you find in your landscape, learn to recognize all stages of the beetles. Make wise pesticide choices and target use to specific areas. Add plants that can provide pollen and nectar for the beetles to supplement their diet.

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

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ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

In Texas alone, roughly 1,270,000 caregivers provide an average of 20 hours a week of unpaid care for friends and loved ones. Caregiving is a demanding undertaking and results in high levels of stress. One core service of Alzheimer's Texas is to provide support to caregivers through volunteer facilitated support groups.

"These groups educate and inform participants about dementia and help caregivers develop methods and skills to solve problems," says Christian Wells, President of Alzheimer's Texas. "They encourage caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical and emotional health as well as providing peer guidance on how to care for the person with dementia."

At 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month, caregivers in the Austin area can gather at Tarrytown Methodist to share their experiences in a safe, supportive environment. Meetings last about an hour and there is no charge to attend.

"We provide a safe, confidential space for caregivers to share what only other caregivers might understand," says Barbara

Wiederaenders, facilitator at Tarrytown Methodist. "The mutual trust is precious and supportive."

Event Details:

When:

3rd Tuesday of Every Month, at 7:00 pm

Where:

Tarrytown Methodist, 2601 Exposition, Room 227, Austin, TX 78703

Contact:

Barbara Wiederaenders, (512) 451-0684 or (512) 845-6117

To find out more information about this program, Alzheimer's disease or Alzheimer's Texas, email vcardenas@TXAlz.org or call (512) 241-0420.



THE TRADITIONS OF EASTER

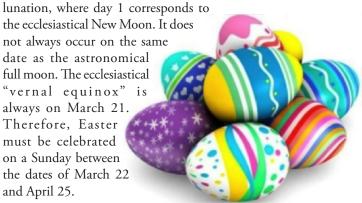
As with almost all "Christian" holidays, Easter has been secularized and commercialized. The dichotomous nature of Easter and its symbols, however, is not necessarily a modern fabrication. Since its conception as a holy celebration in the second century, Easter has had its non-religious side. In fact, Easter was originally a pagan festival.

The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Eastre. When the second century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations, they attempted to convert them to Christianity. They did so, however, in a clandestine manner. It would have been suicide for the very early Christian converts to celebrate their holy days with observances that did not coincide with celebrations that already existed. To save lives, the missionaries cleverly decided to spread their religious message slowly throughout the populations by allowing them to continue to celebrate pagan feasts, but to do so in a Christian manner. As it happened, the pagan festival of Eastre occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. It made sense, therefore, to alter the festival itself, to make it a Christian celebration as converts were slowly won over. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed

to its modern spelling, Easter.

The Date of Easter, Prior to A.D. 325: Easter was variously celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by emperor Constantine. It issued the Easter Rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. However, a caveat must be introduced here. The "full moon" in the rule is the ecclesiastical full moon, which is defined as the fourteenth day of a tabular

the ecclesiastical New Moon. It does not always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon. The ecclesiastical "vernal equinox" always on March 21 Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.



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NATURE WATCH

LITTLE ARMORED ONE

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Spanish for 'little armored one', the armadillo is one of the most interesting mammals in North America. All but one of the 20 different species of armadillo live in Latin America, but the Nine-banded Armadillo (Dasypus novemcinctus) makes its home as far north as Texas



Nine-banded Armadillo

(except for the western Trans-Pecos), Oklahoma, and Louisiana. In fact, this armadillo is the official state small mammal of Texas!

A cat-sized, insect—eating mammal, armadillos have bony plates that cover their back, head, legs, and tail, protecting them from predators. No other living mammal wears such a shell, but contrary to popular belief, the Nine-banded Armadillo cannot roll into a ball and encase itself with its shell. Only the Three-banded Armadillo can accomplish this, by curling its head and back feet inward and contorting its shell as protection. No amount of armor can protect them from the cold, however, and because of their low metabolic rate and lack of fur and body fat stores, cold weather can wipe out whole populations of these little creatures.

Armadillos have a pointy snout and small eyes, and are prolific diggers. They dig for food and dig many burrows, mostly along creekbeds in Central Texas, and they do not survive in areas where the soil is too hard to dig. Armadillos spend up to 16 hours a day digging, mainly active in the dawn and dusk hours, looking for beetles, ants, termites, and other insects. Their eyesight is quite poor, but they use their keen sense of smell to locate food, and utilize their long, sticky tongues to grasp berries, caterpillars, grubs, fungi, and sometimes even carrion.

Armadillos are quite fond of water, visiting water holes and streams to drink, feed, and even take mud baths. Their specific gravity is high, which means they normally ride low in the water when swimming. For short water crossings, they often just walk underwater across the bottom, but for deeper and longer crossings they voluntarily ingest air to inflate themselves and increase their buoyancy by retaining the air in their digestive tract!

Armadillos are thought to be a pair during the breeding season, sharing the same burrow. Due to their bony shells and the underside location of their genitalia, copulation occurs with the female lying on her back. While breeding occurs in July, the embryo remains in a dormant state until November. Always of the same sex, identical quadruplets develop from the single egg, and four young are born in a grass-lined burrow in March.

While the Nine-banded Armadillo is a unique mammal whose range is expanding northward, there is reason to be concerned about their conservation status in Texas. Encroaching human civilization, overgrazing, and progressive climatic change may be keeping them on the move, and many mammalogists agree that armadillos are rare at best when compared to populations of a few years ago. This decline also appears to be correlated with increasing populations of feral hogs, as well as the propensity for people to make trinkets from armadillo shells. Perhaps our state motto should read 'Don't Mess with Texas Armadillos!'

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.

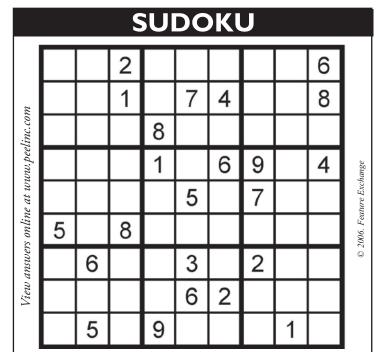


THE VOICE

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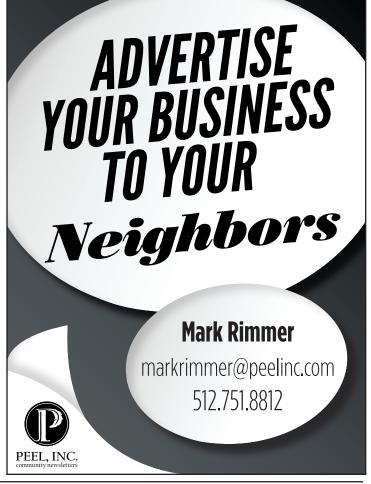


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