

# The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

June 2018

Volume 13, Issue 6



**Saturday June 16th from 1-3pm**  
**Jester Clubhouse parking lot**

Come join us for this free event!

#### How it works:

- Bring your gently used or unused children's toys, books, and clothes to donate at 1pm the day of the swap. Please pre-sort them by age.
- Take as many toys, books and clothes as you would like.
- You do not have to bring anything in order to participate so please come by and check it out!
- Anything remaining at the end will be donated to Safe Place.

For questions please contact Kelly Smentek at 714-876-5839 or Kelly@smmentek.com

## ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS

*by Ron Herzfeld, Chairman*

Many of the mandatory residents of Jester may not realize that there is a requirement to fill out an Architectural application prior to commencing work on a project similar as applying for a City Permit.

The main purpose of the application is to protect the integrity and quality of our neighborhood. Jester Estates has agreed to a

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Paint your wagons, decorate your bikes, your pets, and yourself, and join in this festive parade! Gather at Jester Club at 9:30 am (you don't need to be a member of the club to participate). Parade route will be up Jester, around Basil, and back. Games and activities to follow!

Please contact Teresa at 512-751-8000 or tgouldie@gmail.com if you would like to help at this event!



**Parade & Activities**  
**Wednesday, July 4 - 9:30 am**

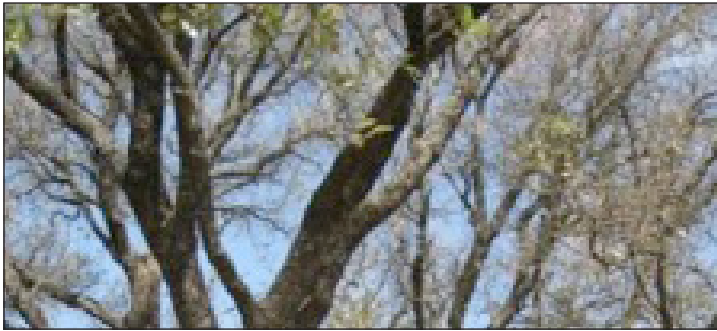
## WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

We're definitely into the busy season for the Welcome Committee, although there are still lots of new residents waiting for their renovations to finish before moving in. We enjoyed delivering 8 bags to new residents. The bags are full of information about Jester and the Austin area. The bags also include information about Jester businesses and usually home baked cookies. The Welcome Committee was able to deliver 8 bags. The residents we met were so upbeat about their move, even when there were still boxes to unpack. The fun thing about volunteering for the Welcome Committee is meeting our new wonderful neighbors and sharing our Jester experience with them.

Sarah and Seth moved to the 8000 block of High Hollow Cove with their sons Ben (12) and Zach (10). They moved from the Crestview area, and are pleased to have a large back yard for their sons, including a sports court and pool. They plan to take advantage of the Jester club.

Lilia, originally from Russia, and Raphael, originally from Latvia, and their children ages 8 and 10 lived in the Austin area 6 years before moving to Jester. Their new home is on the 8000 block of Bottlebrush Drive. *(Continued on Page 11)*

## Oak Wilt



Oak wilt is a disease that is devastating populations of Live Oaks and Red Oaks (Spanish Oak) in central Texas. Maybe you have seen the groves of dead oak trees dotting the countryside along the highways or roads you typically travel.

Oak wilt is caused by a fungus. The fungus originates on red oaks such as Spanish (Texas) Oak. On some infected Spanish Oaks, a fungal mat will grow underneath the bark. The mat will push the bark out and ooze a sweet, sticky substance that attracts beetles. Once the beetles walk on the fungal mat and get spores on their body and feet, they can transport the fungus to a fresh open wound (cut, break) on another oak up to one mile away (in extreme cases). Tree wounds can result from pruning – or any damage caused by wind, hail, vehicles, construction activity, squirrels, or birds. Spread of the disease by beetles is probably limited to November through June, with safer periods being during the heat of the summer and cold of the winter.

### Fungal mat

A critical period of vulnerability to infection is the first 3 days after a wound is made to an oak – the amount of time it takes oaks to naturally create a protective layer over the exposed area. Once an oak is infected through an open wound, the fungus gets into and clogs the vascular channels of the tree, disrupting the circulation of water supply and nutrients, and causing the tree to sicken and eventually die. Spanish Oaks will die rather quickly – within a couple of months. Live Oaks may (but not always) take longer to die – up to a year or so.



After an oak initially becomes infected, the fungus will spread to nearby oaks through the root system. In fact, most oak wilt mortality is a result of infection spread this way. Roots from an infected tree interconnect or graft with other oaks' roots and pass the fungus on; oak trees within 100' – 150' radius may become infected. Average spread rates are 50' to 100' per year from an infection center. Roads do not create a barrier to the spread of oak wilt in this manner.

One of the easiest times to spot oak wilt is in the spring/early summer after temperatures start hitting 90 – 95 degrees, and the trees are pushing sap up into the leaves. Infected, symptomatic Live Oaks have a telltale sign – a yellowing of the leaf along the veins – because sap is being

prevented from reaching the leaves due to clogged vascular channels. Spanish Oak leaves will become brown at the tips of the leaf lobes. (See [www.TexasOakWilt.org](http://www.TexasOakWilt.org) for illustrations.) May through July is the best time to walk your property and study the health of your oaks – tree leaves should be dark green and glossy. If you find leaves with telltale signs of oak wilt, on the trees or on the ground below the trees, contact an arborist or tree service specializing in oak wilt.

A complication to identifying the death of a tree due to oak wilt is the recent record drought which has caused the demise of many trees, in particular the Spanish Oak. If you had a Spanish Oak die during a recent dry summer, more than likely it died from the drought, so don't panic.

However, many of the drought killed trees have a couple of branches or low sprouts holding green leaves and this means they still have living tissues in their trunks. Whenever an oak is removed, the stump should be painted to prevent infection from oak wilt fungal spores carried by beetles.

If the tree is completely dry with bark flaking off then the wood can be utilized safely as a fuel source, either on site or off. The oak wilt fungus can continue to live on cut Spanish Oak for a while, so if there is any question, and you keep the oak for your fireplace, cover it with plastic to keep the beetles off.

If multiple trees have died in close proximity, healthy Live Oaks and Spanish Oaks within 50 feet should be monitored closely for at least two growing seasons.

Oak wilt spreading through the roots can be prevented by digging a trench at least 4.5 feet deep and 100 feet beyond the perimeter of the infection centers. The trench breaks up the root connections.

Susceptible, high value oaks in proximity to infected oaks can be injected with a fungicide.

### What you can do

- Walk your property every May or June and examine the tree leaves for telltale signs of oak wilt. Leaves should be dark green and glossy and not show telltale signs of oak wilt: see [www.TexasOakWilt.org](http://www.TexasOakWilt.org) for illustrations.
- Only prune your trees in the coldest or the hottest part of the year (periods of low insect activity), if possible. (December/January, July/August)
- No matter what time of year you prune, IMMEDIATELY paint the wound with spray or latex paint, or wound dressing. Cut, and then paint the wound prior to cutting the next limb.
- When removing dead or dying oaks, paint the stumps. They might not be completely dead and oak wilt can still spread through the roots.
- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol between sites and/or trees.
- Immediately chip, burn or bury debris from diseased red oaks.
- Plant a diversity of tree species, and only oaks that have a low susceptibility to oak wilt such as: bur, lacey, monterrey, chinquapin, post, shin, and vasey.
- Check out the helpful information at [www.TexasOakWilt.org](http://www.TexasOakWilt.org).

*The article What you need to know about oak wilt appeared first at the Native Plant Society of Texas website.*

(Continued from Cover)

point where fencing, landscaping, major home renovations and other modifications are being made, which is good; but, can affect surrounding homeowners by altering drainage patterns that can create flooding in adjacent yards; that can create light pollution at night; and, other alterations that can physically affect our neighborhood.

The Architectural Committee was formed to control and ensure that no improvement, shall be erected, constructed, placed, altered, maintained, or permitted to remain on any portion of the Property until plans and specifications, have been submitted to be approved, (ART IV Sec 2) of the Restrictions and Covenants).

The application form is found on the Jester website on the Contact page at [jesterhoa.com](http://jesterhoa.com). The governing documents are found on the Documents page.

I realize that this article sounds harsh, but it is important to respect our neighborhood and its residents. The Architectural Committee desires to assist our HOA members with your improvements to the best of our abilities.

We would also like to request that any resident that would like to be on the committee, please contact me at [ron@jesterhoa.com](mailto:ron@jesterhoa.com).



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## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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

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



# Jester Estates

(Continued from Cover)

Wade has lived in South Austin for 2 years. His fiancée Sarah was recently at Texas A&M but was originally from London. They have 3 pets named Ellie, Dylan, and Rupert. They're planning to do some improvements while living in their new home on Juneberry Cove.

Brad and Jen with dogs Elsa and Tebby moved to Ginkgo Cove. Brad's been in Austin since 1991. They are happy to be in Jester and appreciate their super friendly Cove neighbors.



*Lawrence and Debbie on Jester*

April and Ben moved to the 7800 block of High Hollow with their son Theo. They moved from Southwest Austin and are pleased to have a shorter commute to Theo's school.

Lawrence and Debbie moved to the 6700 block of Jester Boulevard from McAllen. They moved upon retirement in order to be closer to their family and friends. Their 2 dogs will join them this week. They've been in only a week, but are well settled into their beautiful new home.



*Evan and Suzanne on Agave Cove*

Evan and Suzanne now live in their home on Agave Cove. They moved from the Crestview area as they are expecting their first child in August and needed a larger home. They have a dog named Biscuit and a cat named Muffin. Evan is from Austin and Suzanne is from Tempe. They are delighted to be in Jester!

We also dropped off a Welcome Bag on the doorstep of a home on the 8100 block of Asmara. It was clear the new buyers had moved in, but we didn't find them home.

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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# NATURE WATCH

## A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Few plant species that grow naturally today have been around for over 100 million years, but one of the best known are plants in the genus *Equisetum*, which is the only living genus of the entire family of Equisetopsida, most commonly known as horsetails. They are recognized as close relatives of ferns, typically growing in wetter areas with whorls of needle-like branches radiating at regular intervals from each single vertical stem.

The common name of horsetail is used for the entire group of plants, since the branched species resemble a horse's tail. In fact, the genus *Equisetum* comes from the Latin *equus* or 'horse' and *seta* or 'bristle.' Another common name is scouring rush, referring to the upright rush-like appearance of the plants, and the fact that the longitudinal ridges of the stems are coated with abrasive silicates, making them useful for scouring or cleaning metal items. It is still used today as a traditional polishing material in Japan.

The primary species of horsetail that occurs natively in wet or moist areas of Texas, most commonly on the Edwards Plateau and in Blackland Prairie, as well as most of the non-tropical northern hemisphere, is *Equisetum hyemale*. A spreading, reed-like perennial growing to 3 feet tall, each stem is evergreen, cylindrical, jointed, hollow, and about 1/4 of an inch in diameter. In this species, the needle-like branches appear non-existent, but are actually small and fused around the stem at each joint or node, forming a blackish-green band or sheath. Interestingly, the



*Horsetail or Scouring Rush*

pattern of spacing of the nodes in these plants, which grow increasingly close together toward the apex, is precisely what inspired Scottish mathematician John Napier to discover logarithms in the late 16th century.

Horsetail prefers open or wooded areas along streams, moist flats, and wet ledges. Like ferns and other related species, horsetails reproduce by spores rather than through seed-producing flowers. These spores are borne in cone-like structures at the tips of



*Dragonflies, like this Neon Skimmer, love to perch on the cones of the horsetail's upright stems*

some stems, and are mostly homosporous, meaning of the same size and type. The tiny spores have four elaters or structures that alter shape in response to changes in moisture, effectively acting as moisture-sensitive springs that assist spore dispersal through crawling and hopping motions once released from the cone.

The upright, evergreen, segmented foliage of horsetail is an appropriate plant for a rain garden, pond edge, water feature, or area with moist soil, and is an excellent perching plant for dragonflies. While it can spread quickly by underground or underwater runners, it is easily kept in check by periodic pulling or by planting it in a container. Few plants add as much interest or vertical structure to a wildscape as this living fossil, which is clearly a 'horse of a different color'!

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

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*Teresa also stands out from other realtors because of her dedication and love of the neighborhood. I recommend Teresa as the most qualified real estate agent to use when selling a home in Jester.”*

## June Events



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

June - July	<b>Austin Symphony Children’s Day Art Park</b>	Austin Central Library
Wednesdays	<i>Features local musicians, storytellers, magicians &amp; more</i>	<a href="http://austinsymphony.org">austinsymphony.org</a>
June -	<b>Dream Big: Engineering Our World</b>	Bob Bullock Museum
Aug. 31	<i>IMAX film – a heartfelt documentary of human ingenuity</i>	<a href="http://thestoryoftexas.com">thestoryoftexas.com</a>
Jun. 7	<b>Shania Twain</b>	Frank Erwin Center
	<i>Global country music superstar</i>	<a href="http://uterwincenter.com">uterwincenter.com</a>
Jun. 7	<b>Maudie’s Moonlight Margarita Run and Party</b>	<a href="http://thetrailfoundation.org">thetrailfoundation.org</a>
	<i>Nighttime 5K around Lady Bird Lake followed by a Tex-Mex party</i>	
Jun. 7 - 10	<b>ATX Television Festival</b>	<a href="http://atxfestival.com">atxfestival.com</a>
	<i>Interact with actors, writers, directors, etc.</i>	
Jun. 7, 14, 21 & 28	<b>Nature Nights at the Wildflower Center</b>	<a href="http://wildflower.org">wildflower.org</a>
	<i>Free, fun explorations of native plants, animals and ecology</i>	
Jun. 8 - 9	<b>American Salute</b>	Zilker Hillside Theater
	<i>Free concert honoring our armed forces and veterans</i>	<a href="http://austincivicorchestra.org">austincivicorchestra.org</a>
Jun. 10	<b>22nd Annual Austin Cool House Tour</b>	<a href="http://coolhousetour.com">coolhousetour.com</a>
Jun. 13	<b>KGSR’s Blues on the Green</b>	<a href="http://kgssr.com">kgssr.com</a>
Jun. 15	<b>John Cusack</b>	<a href="http://texasperformingarts.org">texasperformingarts.org</a>
Jun. 16 - 17	<b>Greater Austin Comic Con</b>	<a href="http://hebcenter.com">hebcenter.com</a>
Jun. 23	<b>Fun Stop 5K &amp; Fest</b>	<a href="http://funstop5k.com">funstop5k.com</a>
Jun. 27	<b>Brit Floyd</b>	The Moody Theater
	<i>The world’s greatest Pink Floyd tribute show</i>	<a href="http://acl-live.com">acl-live.com</a>
Jun. 29 - 30	<b>Leonard Bernstein’s MASS</b>	The Long Center
	<i>The largest performing arts collaboration in Austin’s history</i>	<a href="http://thelongcenter.org">thelongcenter.org</a>
Jun. 30	<b>Chubby Checker</b>	<a href="http://oneworldtheatre.org">oneworldtheatre.org</a>

*serving JESTER ... Just a Little Closer to Heaven!*