



PARKSIDE AT MAYFIELD RANCH

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION BY PEEL, INC.

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Introducing “Get To Know Your Neighbors”

We are all very fortunate to call Parkside at Mayfield Ranch home. But, Parkside at Mayfield Ranch is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming with family-friendly neighborhoods, chock-full of fascinating, talented people. Our variety is what makes us so both unique and extraordinary. However, sometimes, we get so busy, we lose sight of how interesting and diverse we’ve become.

We believe that getting to know the people who live nearby will help us create a sense of belonging and shared identity. We have created a column entitled, “Get to Know Your Neighbors” which we hope will strengthen connections, build trust in our wider community, and contribute to a happier neighborhood for everyone.

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



PARKSIDE

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY911
Fire..... 911
Ambulance..... 911
Williamson County Sheriff (Non Emergency).....512-943-1300

SCHOOLS

Leander ISD.....512-434-5000
Parkside Elementary School.....512-570-7100
Stiles Middle School.....512-570-3800
Rouse High School.....512-570-2000
Vista Ridge High School512-570-1800

UTILITIES

AT&T/Uverse (phone, internet, cable).....800-288-2020
Atmos Energy.....800-460-3030
City of Georgetown.....512-930-3640
Pedernales Electric Co.....512-331-9929
Time Warner (phone, internet, cable).....512-576-3521
Wastewater (Parkside MUD)512-930-3640

OTHER NUMBERS

Williamson County Phone.....512-943-1100
Williamson County Road Department.....512-943-3330
Parks & Recreation Department.....512-943-1920
Williamson County Regional Park512-260-4283
Williamson County Animal Shelter.....512-943-3322
Georgetown Post Office.....512-868-9925
Georgetown Animal Control.....512-930-3592
Round Rock Animal Control512-218-5500
Travis County Animal Control.....512-972-6060

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.512-263-9181
Article SubmissionsParkside@peel.com
Advertising.....advertising@peelinc.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

ON THE WEB:

Parkside at Mayfield Ranch Official web site:

www.spectrumam.com

COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED BY:

Spectrum Association Management

8303 N. Mopac Expy. Ste. 8120

Austin, TX 78759

Phone: (512) 834-3900

www.spectrumam.com

E-MAIL CONTACTS:

Community Manager

Ander Mitchell..... amitchell@spectrumam.com

Amenity Center Reservations

.....reservations@spectrumam.com

General Information

(for questions about your HOA account, making modifications to the exterior of your home, or vendors with billing questions)

.....contact@spectrumam.com



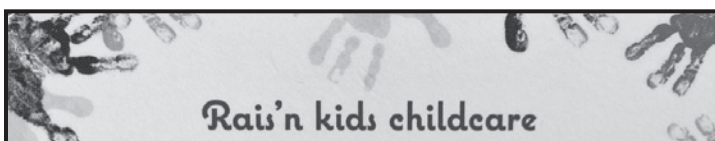
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MUD DAUBERS



Mud daubers are a great wasp to have around. They are solitary, generally docile, and can help to reduce various bugs in the landscape. Mud dauber wasps are $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1" in size and come in a variety of colors. They have a very thin, thread-like waist.

Mud daubers create a mud structure that they provision with insects and/or spiders; they lay an egg on each prey item within a cell in the nest, and then seal the nest off. When larvae hatch from eggs, they eat the items

provisioned for them, pupate, and then emerge as adults to begin the process over.

Management is not usually needed for mud daubers as they do not guard their nest like other wasps. While they are capable of stinging, they are not considered to be aggressive. If you do not like the look of the mud nests, you can remove them with a putty knife.

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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Heart Gallery of Texas



Meet Exzavoyor (12)! He is a fun kiddo, who works hard in school and always strives to do his best. If you enjoy a quick pickup game or throwing the football around or kicking a soccer ball, Exzavoyor

just might be the perfect fit for your family. He would be waiting for a family to call his own!

Interested in adoption or foster care? There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system regardless of which agency you work with. The first step is to choose a child placing agency to begin your journey. Learn more about starting the adoption process and the children waiting for forever families at www.heartgallerytexas.com.

Austin Center For Grief & Loss Offers Summer Camps For Children Experiencing Loss

Camp Red Bird provides a safe place for children to face grief and have fun with peers

The Austin Center for Grief & Loss is hosting Camp Red Bird, a summer day camp for kids ages 6 through 12 who that have experienced a loss. Campers participate in a week of therapeutic games and activities, arts and crafts, while also sharing with peers who have similar experiences.

What: Camp Red Bird, an Austin Center for Grief & Loss day camp for children going through loss. Crafts, activities and time to share.

Visuals and spokespeople:

- Children/parents from last year's camp
- Children interacting, participating in activities, crafts
- Counselors
- Center for Grief and Loss Executive Director

When: Monday-Friday, June 11-15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Monday-Friday, Aug. 6-10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: The Austin Center for Grief & Loss, 2413 Greenlawn Pkwy., Austin, TX 78757

Who: Children who are experiencing loss are attending Camp Red Bird, led by licensed therapists as well as camp counselors.

Why: The goal of the camp is to have these children address their grief and loss while also experiencing a sense of normalcy.

About The Austin Center for Grief & Loss (formerly My Healing Place)

Celebrating its 11th year in Austin, The Austin Center for Grief & Loss is a non-profit organization focused on grief and trauma, assisting children and adults. The Center offers therapy, support, education, training and consultation. The Center serves those who have experienced a loss due to the death of a loved one from illness, miscarriage, accident, suicide, or violence. There are also programs to assist those who have experienced loss due to divorce or separation. The Center specializes in trauma as well, and its therapists are trained in EMDR as well as other cognitive interventions. Note: Holders of Hope Annual Gala, Thursday, October 18 at The Umlauf Sculpture Garden. www.austingrief.org



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NATURE WATCH

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

by Jim and Lynne Weber



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

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 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 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 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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APRICOT STREUSEL BARS



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup dried apricots, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Confectioners' sugar, for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

In medium saucepan, bring apricots, white sugar and water to boil over medium-high heat, stirring often. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer, uncovered, stirring often, until fruit has softened and thickened into a puree, 20 to 30 minutes. Remove from heat and cool completely.

Position rack in center of oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Lightly butter 13-by-9 inch baking pan. Line bottom and short sides of pan with 14-inch-long sheet of aluminum foil, folding the excess foil back to make handles. Butter and flour foil and long sides of pan, tapping out excess flour.

In large bowl, thoroughly mix flour, oats, brown sugar and baking soda. Add melted butter and vanilla and stir well. Mixture will be crumbly. Press half of the oat mixture evenly into prepared pan and spread with cooled apricot mixture. Crumble remaining oat mixture on top and gently pat into filling.

Bake until streusel topping is golden brown and looks set in.

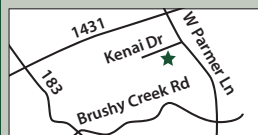
Cool on a wire rack and cut into bars. Makes 36 bars.

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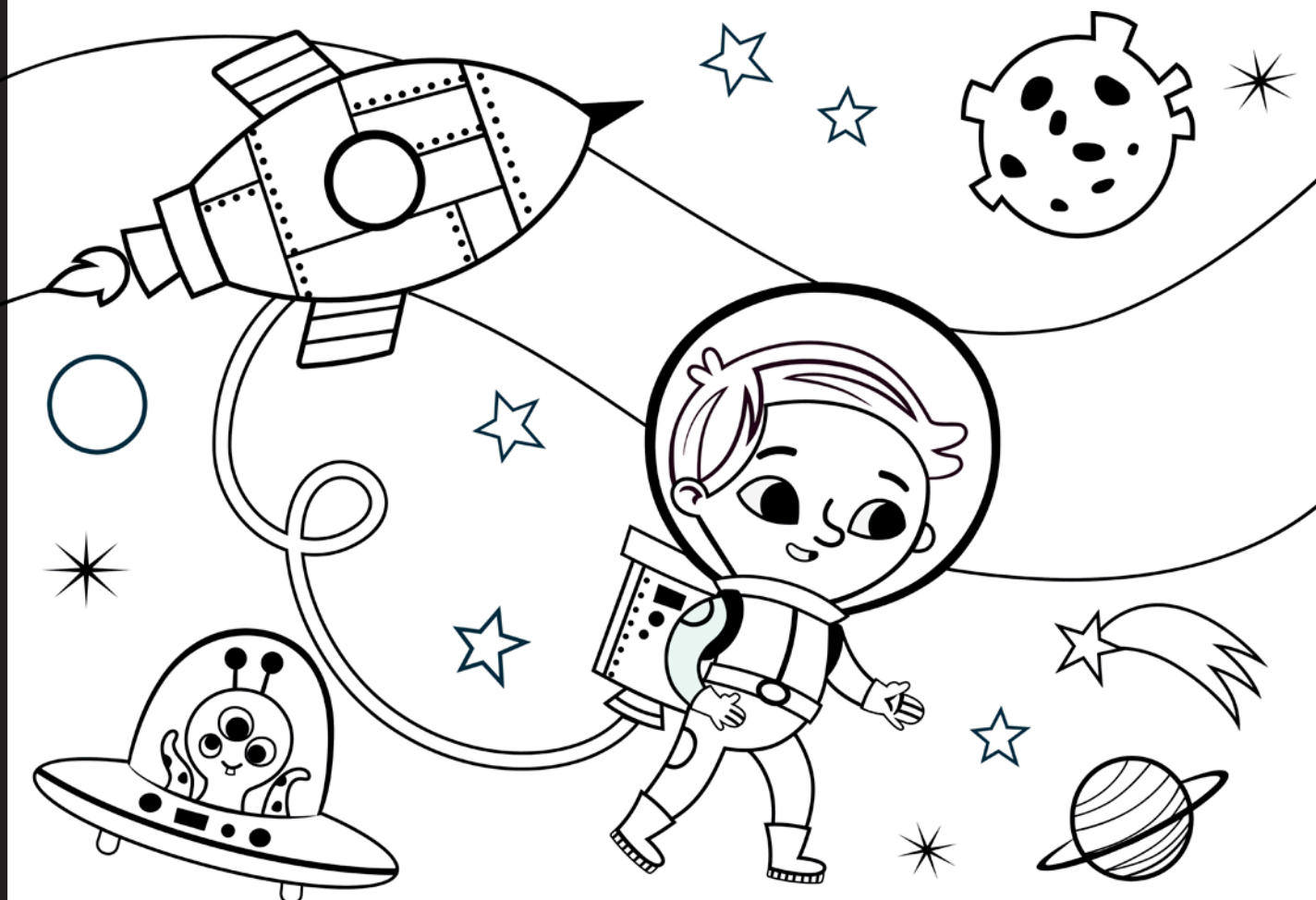
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