

THE *Current* Shadow Creek Ranch

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PURPLE MARTIN MIGRATION

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Everyone looks forward to the arrival of the Purple Martins each year. Most of us think their arrival means spring is just around the corner. But, at this time of the year, no one really thinks about them anymore. Most people don't know that they're very busy getting ready to migrate south.

Preparations for migration begin in July and August when the birds form large flocks and roost (a place where birds or bats regularly settle or congregate to rest at night). There can be thousands of birds in a roost. They call this gathering "staging." Some of the better-known roosts in the Houston area are Gordon Park in Stafford and around Willowbrook Mall. They spend their days eating flying insects to build up body fat for their long flight ahead.

So where do they go? In the spring of 2009, geolocators were attached to 20 birds from two Texas colonies. It was discovered that the birds wintered deep in the Amazon rainforest and traveled an amazing 250 to 300 miles per day! They can fly between 17 and 27 miles per hour unless a predator is chasing them when their speed can reach 40 miles per hour. They spend several months in South America in large roosts where they undergo their annual molt. Although their annual molt begins before migration, they don't molt their flight or tail feathers until they reach South America. Molting is very beneficial because it replaces damaged feathers and helps get rid of parasites.

Purple martins will spend several months in South America before heading back to North America. The scouts typically show up in our area in mid-January through early February.



The term "scout" is used to describe the first martin(s) observed. They will go to the same nesting site from the previous year. The scouts can be either an older male or female but are usually males. Arrival of the remainder of the birds depends on their age and sex. Older male birds arrive after the scouts followed by the older females followed by the younger ones. The younger ones, or subadults, may not appear until 4 to 12 weeks after the first ones arrive. They fledged the previous year so their first priority is to find a nesting site.

According to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas martins nest almost exclusively in bird housing provided by humans. Once they have occupied a martin house, they will continue to use it year after year as long as you clean it out in the fall and keep the starlings and sparrows from moving in.

TWRC Wildlife Center has been serving the Greater Houston for 40 years. We admit nearly 5,000 injured, orphaned or displaced animals every year. Learn more about us at:

www.twrcwildlifecenter.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
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Pearland Police Department	281-997-4100

SCHOOLS

Mary Marek Elementary	281-245-3232
Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary	281-245-3090
Manvel Junior High	281-331-1416
Alvin Senior High	281-331-8151
Manvel High School	281-245-2235
Alvin ISD Administration	281-338-1130
Alvin ISD Transportation	281-331-0960

UTILITIES

Electricity - Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
Gas - Center Point	713-659-2111
Trash Removal - City of Pearland	281-652-1600

CITY

Pearland City Hall.....	281-652-1600
Pearland Utility Billing - Water Dept.	281-652-1603
Pearland Animal Control.....	281-652-1970
Pearland Police Dept - Non-Emergency	281-652-1100
Pearland Public Works.....	281-652-1900

OTHER NUMBERS

Pearland Post Office	281-485-2132
Poison Control	800-764-7661
Brazoria County Health Department	979-864-1484
Animal Control.....	281-756-2265
Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST	713-341-1000

NEWSLETTER

Articles.....	shadowcreekbranch@peelinc.com
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FAST LAINE FIT

Sign up today to volunteer for the The Fast Laine Fit Run 10K/5K/5K Challenge/KidsK held at the Pearland Recreation Center & Natatorium! This run is a great family event and a way to get active and have fun doing it! This run includes an awesome 5K "Im Getting Fit Faced Challenge", at each mile a trainer will challenge participants with a workout. You do not want to miss this one run, its a great way to kick off the holiday season. All volunteers will receive a cool volunteer shirt and a yummy snack. To register as a volunteer or participant, please visit us at www.fastlaineft.com or check us out on FB! For questions, please feel free to contact Lisa Hartman at lisa@irunproductions.com



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PEARLAND TURKEY TROT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign up today to volunteer for the Pearland Turkey Trot 6k/4k/Family 1K/Kids K, benefiting the Forever Parks Foundation of Pearland. The Pearland Turkey Trot will be held on the early morning of Thanksgiving 11/28, to sign up please visit www.pearlandturkeytrot.com and select register. All volunteers will receive a cool volunteer shirt!

Help us Keep Pearland Beautiful, by way of volunteering or running. We look forward to seeing you. Gobble Gobble

For questions, please feel free to contact Lisa Hartman at lisa@irunproductions.com.



WEST PEARLAND TOASTMASTERS

Please join the members of West Pearland Toastmasters for an Open House on **Thursday, October 10th at Orchard Park at Southfork, 3151 Southfork Parkway, Manvel, TX 77578**. This event is FREE and open to the public. Please bring a friend, relative, or coworker who you believe will benefit from developing and practicing their communication and leadership skills in a safe, supportive environment. During the Open House program, our Vice President of Membership will discuss the many benefits of joining Toastmasters and the club experience.

We hope to see you there!

West Pearland Toastmasters Open House

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Orchard Park at Southfork

3151 Southfork Parkway

Manvel, TX 77578

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/hub14MSBfj12>

- Meet and Greet: 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm
- Program: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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THE GINGERBREAD VILLAGE HOLIDAY MARKET will be held on **October 26, 2019** from **9 A. M. to 4 P. M.** The Ladies Auxiliary from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is hosting this unique craft show with over 100 vendors. Admission is free. It is located at 6646 Addicks Satsuma Road, Houston. Come join us!

ST. PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH BIENNIAL RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE

The women of St. Peter's Anglican church will be hosting their biennial rummage sale and bake sale on Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2, 2019. Hours are 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day, and will be held in the church rectory at 19915 Cypress Church Rd., Cypress, Texas 77433. This is the perfect time to put holiday baked goods in the freezer, so come on out and help the ladies fund their projects.




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Add Mexican Flair to Game Day Favorites

Football season, for many people, is just as much about the food as it is about the action. No matter who's playing and whether you're at a tailgate or living room watch party, one thing is for sure: football and flavor go hand-in-hand.

When you're huddling up to figure out how to score a touchdown with your game day spread, consider taking your snacks to the next level by adding an authentic Mexican flair. Opt for traditional Mexican ingredients like chorizo, queso fresco or cotija in meals and snacks that are already football mainstays, including nachos, tacos and quesadillas, and consider all the possibilities that incorporating these flavorful ingredients can add to other classic dishes like sliders and potato skins.

Ideal for tailgate season, Cacique, one of the country's top Mexican food brands, offers Mexican-Style Queso Dips – made with real queso fresco and available in Queso Blanco, Southwestern, Jalapeño and Chipotle flavors – and Fully Cooked Chorizos – made with authentically seasoned premium pork shoulder and available in classic, Chorizo with Bacon & Potato, Chorizo with Eggs and Chorizo with Queso varieties – to help fans easily add Mexican flavor to indulgent game day favorites. Both use high-quality ingredients and are microwavable, so they taste authentic and can be ready in minutes so no one misses any of the big plays or touchdowns.

Consider these twists you can add to your favorite game time snacks:

- **Loaded Avocados:** Give avocados the potato skin treatment by loading them up with delicious toppings like chorizo, queso fresco and crema – just don't eat the skin.
- **Cheese Fries:** Drizzle queso dip over French fries or top with crumbles of flavorful Cacique Chorizo and Cotija in a recipe like these Baked Sweet Potato Fries with Chorizo and Cotija.
- **Robust Sliders:** Skip regular beef patties and spoon the rich seasoning and punch of flavor that chorizo brings to your favorite slider rolls then top with your favorite cheese and salsa.
- **Mac and Cheese:** For a new take on mac and cheese, toss cooked macaroni noodles with your favorite Cacique Queso Dip and top

with crushed tortilla chips in a recipe like this Southwestern Mac and Queso.

Discover more ways to incorporate Mexican flair into your game day spread at caciqueinc.com.



Baked Sweet Potato Fries with Chorizo and Cotija

- 4 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut lengthwise into 1/2-inch wide sticks
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- salt
- freshly ground black pepper

1 package Cacique Fully Cooked Chorizo

1 cup Cacique Cotija, crumbled

2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Heat oven to 400 F and lightly grease large, rimmed baking sheet.

In large bowl, toss sweet potato sticks with olive oil.

Lay fries in single layer on prepared baking sheet and sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Bake 15-18 minutes, shaking pan several times, until tender and lightly browned.

When fries are almost done baking, microwave chorizo 3-4 minutes.

To serve, place golden brown fries on serving platter and spoon chorizo over top. Sprinkle with cotija and fresh cilantro.



Southwestern Mac and Queso

- 1 package Cacique Queso Dip
- 1 box macaroni, cooked according to package instructions
- 1/4 cup Cacique Queso Fresco, crumbled
- 1/2 cup tortilla chips, crushed

Microwave queso dip 2-3 minutes; stir. Pour over cooked macaroni and toss until thoroughly coated.

Sprinkle crumbled queso fresco and crushed tortilla chips over macaroni before serving.

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