

# THE RIVER REVIEW



April 2020

Volume 14, Issue 4

*Photo by Mia Sanchez*



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF RIVER PLACE

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### *Questions about articles?*

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# ARTICLE INFO

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The River Review is mailed monthly to all River Place residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for the River Review please email it to [riverreview@peelinc.com](mailto:riverreview@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

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# RIVER PLACE (MAYBE NOT SO) CLEVER QUIPS OF THE MONTH

Seen on restaurant marquee: My favorite essential oil is bacon grease.

In the event of a tornado or hurricane, put some wieners in your pockets. That way the search dogs will find you first.

Whoever has my voodoo doll, please take some stuffing out of the stomach area.

If a woman starts a sentence with, "I find it funny how," you can bet your life she doesn't find it funny.

How come know-it-alls don't know how annoying they are?

I saw a joke on my snack box: Serving size, 3 cookies.

My friend passed away because his family couldn't remember his blood type to tell EMS. But throughout the ordeal he was a trooper-kept telling everyone to "be positive."

You know what rhymes with Friday? Vodka.

What do you do if attacked by a gang of clowns? Go for the juggler.

Couple in bed: Her: I bet he's thinking of another woman. Him: I wonder how long it takes a giraffe to throw up?

If the situation were turned around, I doubt very seriously if one cat would take in 26 old ladies.

With 3 kids in the house, someone is always crying. Currently, it's me.

I think a good time to clean the house is once the kids are in college.

I used to work for a bank but I lost interest.

I'm starting to think I will never be old enough to know better.

The hardest thing about "everything happens for a reason" is figuring out the reason.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.  
—Mark Twain

## Happy Easter! Some Simple Facts Regarding This Religious ‘Holiday’

### Is Easter Sunday a Public Holiday?

Easter Sunday is not a public holiday. It falls on Sunday, April 12, 2020 and most businesses follow regular Sunday opening hours in the United States.

Easter Sunday celebrates the Christian belief of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.

### What Do People Do?

Many churches hold special services on Easter Sunday, which celebrate the Jesus Christ's resurrection after his crucifixion. Many people also decorate eggs. These can be hard boiled eggs that can be eaten later, but may also be model eggs made of plastic, chocolate, candy or other materials. It

is also common to organize Easter egg hunts. Eggs of some form are hidden, supposedly by a rabbit or hare. People, especially children, then search for them. In some areas, Easter egg hunts are a popular way for local businesses to promote themselves or may even be organized by churches.

### Public Life

Easter Sunday is not a federal holiday but a number of stores are closed in many parts of the US and if they are open, they may have limited trading hours. In some cities, public transit systems usually run their regular Sunday schedule, but it is best to check with the local transport authorities if any changes will be implemented during Easter Sunday.

### Background

In Pagan times, many groups of people organized spring festivals. Many of these celebrated the re-birth of nature, the return the land to fertility and the birth of many young animals. These are the origins of the Easter eggs that we still hunt for and eat.

In Christian times, the spring began to be associated with Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. The crucifixion is remembered on Good Friday and the resurrection is remembered on Easter Sunday. The idea of the resurrection joined with the ideas of re-birth in Pagan beliefs.



### Symbols

For people with strong Christian beliefs, the cross that Jesus was crucified on and his resurrection are important symbols of the period around Easter. Other symbols of Easter include real eggs or eggs manufactured from a range of materials, nests, lambs and rabbits or hares. Sometimes these symbols are combined, for example, in candy models of rabbits with nests full of eggs. Eggs, rabbits, hares and young animals are thought to represent the re-birth and return to fertility of nature in the spring. Happy Easter!



## Tennis Tip of the Month: 10 Tips as Reminders

How often do we find ourselves making a silly mistake that we are sorry for yet we know better? Maybe we forget to bend our knees on a half volley or we swing like a boxer at an easy volley. We know better but sometimes we just forget what we've learned a hundred times because of the emotion in the moment.

Here's a list of some common reminders that we can review once in a while and especially if we haven't played in a while. But make sure to review them before an important match. In these times, due to the little extra pressure, we often make the simple errors that cause us to miss that important easy shot.

Tennis Tips: Review weekly and before important matches.

- Let the shoulder turn take the racquet head back. Forget the arm and the big take back. If you have the racquet held properly and you turn your shoulders, you can just drop the racquet head (looping) and step into the swing, saving time and adding power and control. Practice at home.
- Split step just before your opponent contacts the ball so that you move quickly toward your shot, not being caught flat-footed. It's good footwork.
- Start each warm-up getting your timing down by saying "bounce-hit" as the ball gets to you and you hit it solidly.
- For good power, turn the shoulders early and step into your shots with the knees bent, dragging the back foot forward. Don't pull up.
- To focus on solid hitting, keep the head still and watch the spin or the

lines on the ball, especially during warm-up. Or see the blur of the ball.

- If you're hitting short, imagine a rainbow from your baseline to the opponent's baseline. Hit your shots into this rainbow to acquire additional depth on your ground strokes. Adjust the imaginary rainbow as necessary.
  - For better footwork, move with small, quick steps. This helps you make explosive moves in any direction and avoid being off balance.
  - When serving, remember 'down together, up together' to get yourself into the trophy position to maximize your smoothness for control and power.
  - For power on the serve, bend the knees and loosen your grip on the racquet so your arm bends and you whip through.
  - For a consistent service toss, point the inside of the wrist/palm upward and lift the service toss to the 10 o'clock position. Do not roll the wrist or fling the ball. Try to toss it about a foot above the hitting point.
- So there they are. 10 tips to quickly look over before you play. Keep this list handy and, if you can get in the habit of reviewing it regularly, you will be pleasantly surprised at how you consistently are able to play your best game!

If you have a question on any of these techniques, feel free to call or text me.

Walter: 512-497-9971

"Serve it, smash it, win it, love it."

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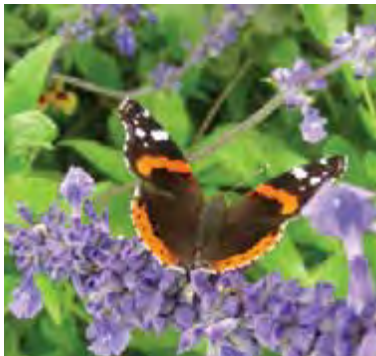
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## Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Pollinators



are not aggressive and many are stingless, so people should not be afraid of them.



feeding; nectar plants are needed for adult feeding; and overwintering sites are needed for various stages.



There are many animal pollinators with most of those being insects. Probably the most well-known of pollinator insects are bees and more specifically, honey bees. Honey bees are pollinators, but only make up a small portion of the bee population around the world. Most bees are solitary and nest in the ground. Solitary bees

Butterflies and moths are also important pollinators. Unfortunately, due to habitat destruction and other factors, their populations are on the decline. If you want to provide habitat for butterflies and moths, you need to ensure to fulfill the requirements of all life stages. Host plants are needed for egg laying and caterpillar

Flies are an often overlooked pollinator. With their poor reputation for carrying diseases, many people consider flies to be pests. Flies can be beneficial by fitting into food webs, breaking down waste material, feeding on other insects (some species), and pollinating plants

(including some food crops such as apples and peppers).

### Ideas to help conserve pollinators:

- Plant native plants that provide nectar blooms spring, summer, and fall
- Provide a variety of colors
- Provide a variety of flower/ bloom shapes
- Provide multiple levels of plants (groundcover, shrubs, trees, etc.)
- Plant in clumps of the same plant to make it easier for pollinators to find
- Reduce turf and replace with flowering plants
- Plant native bunch grasses to provide food and shelter for insects
- Allow fallen leaves to remain on property to provide shelter
- Create areas of bare soil for ground nesting bees (choose sunny areas that will provide dry soil)
- Use IPM (integrated pest management) to reduce pesticide use
- Provide water in a SAFE manner for insects
- Use shallow dishes with rocks, stones, sand, or some substrate to allow insects to drink without drowning

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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## Help Make the World a Better Place

Did you know that by opening your home to a foreign exchange student you are taking on the role as a diplomat of the United States? Its true! Hosting a teenager from another country is form of public diplomacy – it gives both the host family and the student an opportunity to learn from each other, exchange cultural experiences and most of all, form life-long relationships.

All that is required of a host family is to provide three meals a day, a place for the student to sleep and a little bit of TLC thrown in. Students can share a room with a same sex sibling that is within three years of their age. The students all come with their own spending money, health insurance and an eagerness to be part of your family.

STS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is looking for volunteer host families for the 2020/2021 school year. We accept all different types of families, from single parents, to newly marrieds, to empty nesters to same sex couples. The application process is simple, once you are completely vetted, you will have access to our student database where you can select the student that best fits in with your family.

If you would like to find out more about hosting one of our wonderful students, please contact Vicki Odom at (832) 455-7881 or email at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com. I can get you started in helping to make the world a better place to live.



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