

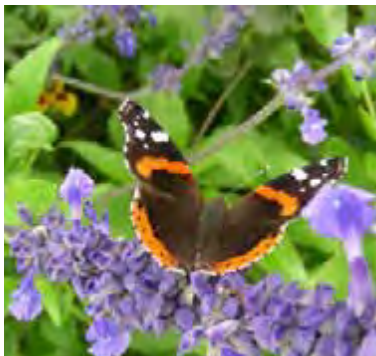
The Community Connection

NEWS FOR SWEETWATER RESIDENTS

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

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue	
Administration Office.....	512-266-2533
Travis County Animal Control.....	512-972-6060

SCHOOLS

Lake Travis ISD.....	512-533-6000
Lake Travis High School.....	512-533-6100
Lake Travis Middle School.....	512-533-6200
West Cypress Elementary.....	512-533-7500

UTILITIES

Pedernales Electric.....	888-554-4732
Crossroads Utilities (Water, Sewer, Trash).....	512-246-1400
Texas Gas Service	
Customer Service.....	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies.....	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig.....	512-472-2822
AT&T.....	1-800-288-2020
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Bee Cave City Hall.....	512-767-6600
Bee Cave Library.....	512-767-6620
Bee Cave Municipal Court.....	512-767-6630
Lake Travis Post Office	512-263-2458
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center.....	512-571-5000
City of Bee Cave	www.beecavetexas.com
Travis County (General No.).....	512-854-9020
.....	www.traviscountytexas.gov

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The *Community Connection* is mailed monthly to all Sweetwater 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 *Community Connection* please email it to sweetwater@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.



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.



Wash Your Hands

Reducing Spread of Disease While at Home and Work

By: Concentra Urgent Care

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say that nearly 90,000 patients die in U.S. hospitals each year due to a preventable disease – many could be avoided if everyone properly washed their hands.

From germs on office equipment to sick colleagues who decided to come into work anyway, people face the same dangers in the workplace. The same simple fact holds true: Washing your hands regularly is an effective way to prevent yourself from catching or spreading a preventable disease or illness.

WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS

The CDC recommends washing your hands every time you:

- Prepare or eat food
- Use the restroom
- Tend to someone who is sick; both before and after
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze
- Handle garbage
- Treat a cut or wound
- Change a diaper or clean up after children
- Handle an animal or animal waste

HAND WASHING BASICS

The CDC has issued specific guidelines about effective hand washing:

- Wet hands with water
- Use plain bar or liquid soap
- Create a lather by vigorously rubbing hands together for 15-20 seconds—about the amount of time it takes to sing “Happy Birthday” twice
- Be sure to wash palms, back of hands, fingers, and nails (clean nails by gently scratching nails down your opposing soapy palm)
- Rinse off soap under a stream of water

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- Focus on hand washing in the lunch and/or break room
- Be careful when using sponges and dish towels. These are ideal sites for bacterial growth. Always wash your hands after using these items.
- Maintain a clean work area; regularly clean any office equipment, especially shared items such as phones and keyboards.
- Remind your colleagues of the importance of hand washing, particularly when you witness someone neglecting to wash his or her hands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about how washing hands regularly can help prevent disease, ask your health care provider, or visit the CDC's creative Web site dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of hand washing at www.henrythehand.com.



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EARTH DAY 2020 Celebrating 50 Years

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



April 22nd marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental support. Earth Day was founded by Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, when in 1969 he witnessed the destruction caused by a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. He came up with the idea of a “national teach-in on the environment” and presented it to the media. Congressman Pete McCloskey was persuaded to serve as co-chair. A Harvard student named Denis Hayes was named the national coordinator and with a staff of 85, it was promoted across the country. The date of April 22nd was chosen because it falls between spring break and final exams.

The first Earth Day was very successful. Over 20 million Americans demonstrated, gathered in parks and auditoriums and held rallies to demonstrate for a healthy environment. It was indeed the beginning of a movement and by the end of 1970, the United States Environmental Protection Agency was created and the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were passed.

Between 1970 and 1989, Earth Day celebrations and activities grew and in 1990, again under the direction of Denis Hayes, the concept was introduced globally. More than 200 million people in 141 countries celebrated Earth Day. Today, it is the single-largest day of action in the world with 193 countries participating.

There are many ways you can help our planet. Plant a tree, pick up trash, start a compost bin, switch to earth-friendly cleaning products, start recycling, carpool, stop using plastic products, just to name a few. Celebrate the beauty of our world by taking a walk in the park.

Although Earth Day is celebrated only one day every year, our earth needs protecting every day. Make saving the planet a part of your lifestyle.

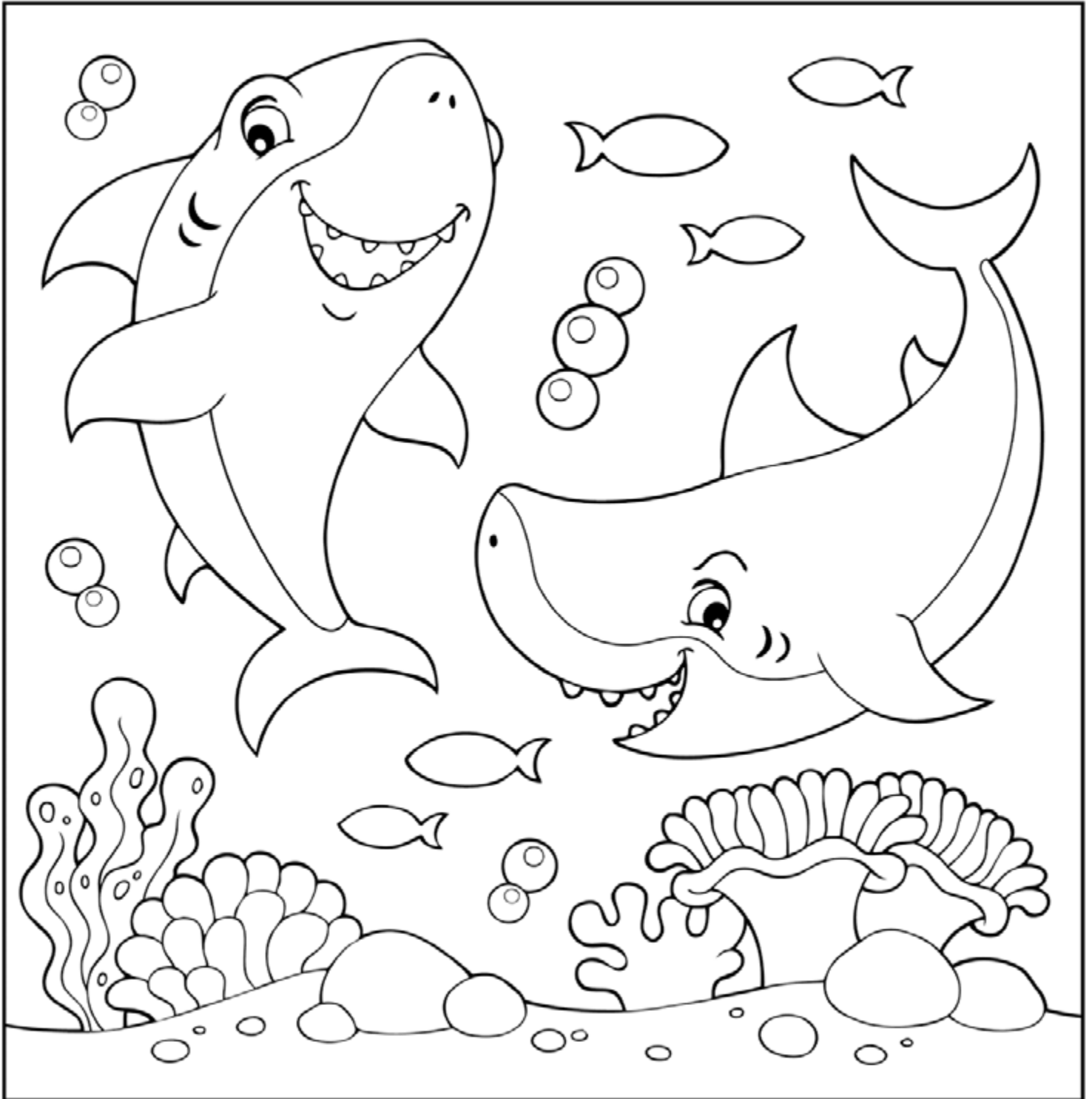
Cities and communities across the globe are celebrating with Earth Day events. Check to see what your city is doing.

TWRC Wildlife Center's contribution to our environment is by rehabilitating injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife with the goal of returning healthy animals back to the wild. If you'd like to find out how you can help, contact berri.moffett@twrcwildlifecenter.org

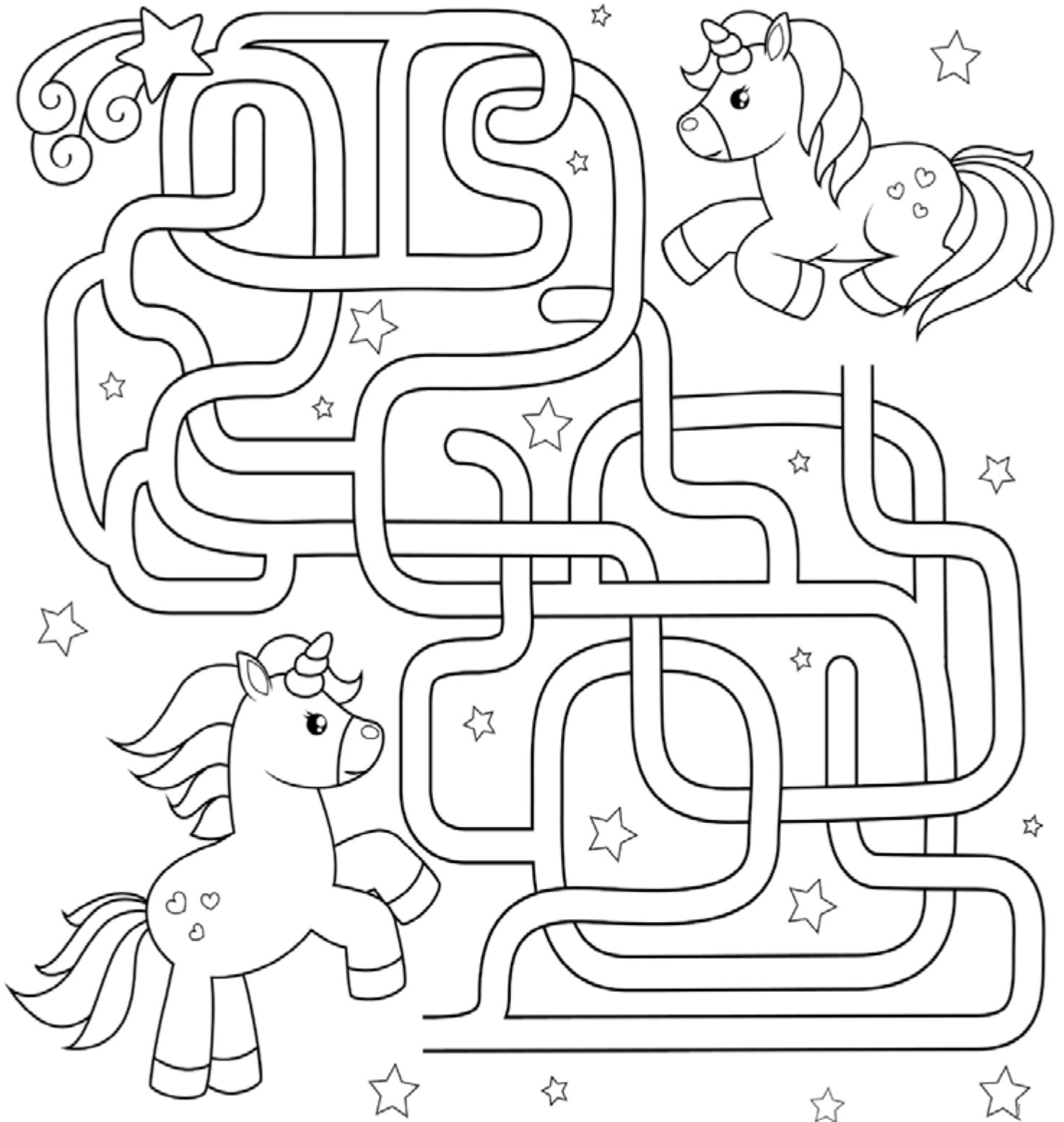


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