



# The Jester Warbler

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## FireWise Home Evaluations Update – Postponed, but Please Still Sign Up

A thank you to all Jester neighbors who have had their Free FireWise Home Evaluation so far in 2020. As you would expect, all FireWise Home Evaluations are postponed until we resume normal conditions. Thanks to the 11 Jester homeowners who are on the list for home evaluations, hopefully, in the near future!

Jester homeowners who have not had their homes evaluated, please sign up so when we return to normal living, we can schedule your FREE FireWise Home Evaluation. It only takes about an hour to evaluate the outside of your home and suggest ways to reduce the risk of wild fire damage.

Also, for those who have cleared the 30' Safety Zone in time for the big brush pickup, thanks for taking the necessary precautions to keep your home better prepared for a wildfire.

For more information and/or to schedule your Free Home Evaluation, please email Carol at [firewise@jesterhoa.com](mailto:firewise@jesterhoa.com)

### JESTER FIREWISE COMMITTEE

#### NEW MEMBERS

*by Carol Philipson*

The Jester Wildfire Committee is lucky to have two NEW volunteers Susan Davidson and Jeff Talmadge. Susan & Jeff join Gary Seeger, Brad Knowles, Jeff Shapiro, Cindy Sympson, Keith Craik and Jay & Mollie Snow and myself to help with upcoming events to keep Jester homeowners safe!

If any other Jester residents would like to volunteer with only as much time as you can spare, we'd love to have the extra help. Please contact me at [firewise@jesterhoa.com](mailto:firewise@jesterhoa.com)



## Jester Welcome Committee

### Welcomes 8 New Residents

*by Carol Philipson*

Jester Welcomes 8 new neighbors to our wonderful neighborhood. Unfortunately, all visits from the Welcome Committee are postponed for everyone's safety. We hope that we will be visiting ya'll in person soon so don't think we forgot about you. Better Late than Never...See You Soon!!

If you have just relocated to Jester and I have not corresponded with you via phone/text/email or NextDoor, please feel free to contact me, so we can plan to stop by to meet & greet you and your family soon.

Are you Outgoing and love to meet new people...Join the Jester Welcome Committee!!

It's fun and doesn't take much of your time plus you get to meet your neighbors! For more information and/or to volunteer please email me at [firewise@jesterhoa.com](mailto:firewise@jesterhoa.com)



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## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing  
tgouldie@gmail.com or by going to:  
www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php.

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



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## Jester Resident and Business Owner Helps the Planet and His Bottom Line

For more information contact Dale Bulla @ dale-bulla@pobox.com

I am a Jester resident and business owner so when I came across the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, which allowed me to make the money saving upgrades to my commercial building with no upfront costs, I took note.

Our old roof was last replaced in 1997. So, we decided to rebuild the roof with a thermoplastic membrane layer. This highly energy efficient material, reflects the sun's energy, has an automatic cooling effect that reduces the building temperature in summer. We were able to fill 80% of the 6,000 sq. ft of roof space with over 75 solar panels.

We decided to replace 15 air conditioner units in the building, along with WiFi thermostats, since the new units are more efficient, they cool much faster at a lower cost. And we also converted all of the building's lighting to LED technology since Austin Energy paid 90% of the upgrades.

With a total cost of over \$300K, we utilized the PACE program which allows building owners to upgrade facility infrastructure with little or no capital outlay. All of these upgrades were done with no upfront money out of my pocket and our net operating costs have remained pretty much the

same even after including yearly loan payment into the costs.

If you are a business owner like me, you should look into this program which will save you money while protecting the environment.

Apurva Bhansali on Foxtree Cove in Jester Estates



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## FIREWISE BIG BRUSH PICK UP

# Stay at Home FUN Bird-related Activities

### Birdcams

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/all-cams/> including WBU

#### Barred Owl cam and Cornell FeederWatch Cam

<https://www.audubon.org/birdcams>

<http://palemale.com> New York City's Red-tailed Hawks **Take courses about birds**

Cornell Lab Bird Academy

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/course-list/>

Learn birdsong to identify birds

<https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/.../bird-identification-id...>

### Articles

Brighten your day with baby bird pics

<https://www.audubon.org/.../brighten-your-day-some-sweet-baby...>

The joy of birds

<https://www.audubon.org/joy-of-birds>

Top 10 early signs of spring

<https://watchingbackyardbirds.com/.../a.../early-signs-of-spring>

American Bird Conservancy's Birds of the Week

<https://abcbirds.org/birds/bird-of-the-week/>



### Shows

PBS Nature

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/>

### Movies

Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill

The Big Year

The Birds

Winged Migration

[https://www.sonyclassics.com/wingedmigrati.../index\\_flash.html](https://www.sonyclassics.com/wingedmigrati.../index_flash.html)

Suggestions from Birdwatching magazine:

<https://birdwatchinghq.com/bird-movies-films/>

### Netflix

Dancing with the Birds

<https://www.netflix.com/title/80186796?s=i&trkid=13752289>

The Angry Birds Movie 2

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81073593?s=i&trkid=13752289>

NOVA: Bird Brain

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81121171?s=i&trkid=13752289>

### Amazon Prime

Counting on Birds: Tales of Migration

<https://watch.amazon.com/detail...>

Wild About - Raptors - Birds of Prey

<https://watch.amazon.com/detail...>

Hummingbirds

<https://watch.amazon.com/detail...>

Citizen Science Projects

<https://www.zooniverse.org/>

# NATURE WATCH

## BLUE BEAUTIES

*by Jim and Lynne Weber*

Spring brings a festival of color to our landscape in the form of wildflowers, mostly in shades of red, yellow, orange, purple, pink, and white. But the most infrequent color of them all is blue. There is no true blue pigment in plants, so they don't have a direct way to produce blue color. Plants have to perform a sort of trickery to produce blue blooms, using a common plant pigment called anthocyanin. Plants have evolved to tweak their normally red to purple anthocyanin pigments by naturally modifying pH and then mixing those pigments, and combined with the way natural light reflects, these factors result in the creation of blue flowers.

Aside from the well-known bluebonnet, there are other blue beauties in bloom this time of year, including Dayflower (*Commelina erecta*), Blue Curls (*Phacelia congesta*), and Texas Bluestar (*Amsonia ciliata*). Dayflower is a 3-foot high perennial with soft jointed stems that grow upright only if supported by other plants. It blooms from May to October, but most frequently in spring or fall. The flowers are about 1 inch across, with two larger showy blue petals and one much smaller white petal. Lasting only a day, several of these ephemeral blooms occur on one plant, generally one at a time, each opening 3 to 4 days apart. Often found growing in dry scrub and partly shaded woods, its other common names include Widow's Tears and White-mouth Dayflower.

Blue Curls, also known as Caterpillars, Fiddleneck, or Spike Phacelia, is a leafy annual or biennial that grows 1 to 3 feet tall in sandy or rocky soil. Its periwinkle blue, bell-shaped flowers are ¼ inch long and occur in numerous slender, coiled clusters that uncurl as the buds develop, resembling the suckered underside of an octopus tentacle. Its leaves are soft and deeply cut, often appearing ragged, borne on a brittle stem. Blooming from March to May, Blue Curls is often found in large colonies in meadows and woodland edges.

Growing up to 2 feet tall, Texas Bluestar blooms from March to June in dry open woods and on chalky hills. Its narrow almost needle-like leaves occur singly but close together all long the stem up to the flower cluster. Every cluster is made up of few to numerous pale blue flowers, each ½ inch long and wide, with a narrow tube opening into 5 petal-like lobes shaped like a star, with a ring of white at the center. It is also known as Fringed Bluestar, referring to the fringe of small hairs found on the new leaves and plant stems.

Less than 10 percent of the more than 280,000 species of flowering plants on Earth produce blue flowers. Interestingly,

while blue did not develop as a common color during the process of natural selection, plants that have blue blooms don't seem to deter beneficial pollinators. Both birds and insects can widely detect blue wavelengths, and blue flowers are just as capable of producing food as flowers of other colors.

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*, *Nature Watch Big Bend*, and *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).



*Blue Curls*



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Note: Due to the ongoing cancellation of events, we cannot publish an accurate calendar of activities this month.