



The Jester Warbler

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President's Corner

Greetings Jester Neighbors:

In the midst of all that is happening in the world today, I trust that everyone is staying safe and well. It has been a challenging time for all as we adhere to the safety protocols focused on prevention of CV19 spread. We certainly miss gathering for our annual events and look forward to the time when we can again mingle and share time together.

The monthly board meetings will remain on hold for the foreseeable future but we welcome electronic connections for questions, suggestions or other input to benefit the neighborhood.

The front entrance landscape project is now complete! It has been a lesson in tenacity but also one of commitment and fun as historical issues were uncovered, new relationships forged, and dedicated focus from all involved saw the plan fall into place and turn into a unique and beautiful complement to our Jester neighborhood. I hope you have noticed and will continue to enjoy it. A special thanks to Scott Thurmon and his incredible crew for bringing it all to exceptional completion. They will be adding a little magic to the Jester Wild area as well.

We continue to welcome more involvement in the JHOA and have several committees that could use volunteers. Join in and invest in your neighborhoods' future and contact us with ideas to enhance our community.

Let's continue to support and uphold each other, watch out for our neighbors, and contribute to the success of the neighborhood however we can. If you know a need, please let us know – we will do our best to help.

Hold your families close; love each other; and stay safe -
Christi Campbell
Jester HOA Board President

What is the Wildland Urban-Interface?

by Peggy Hutchison

While Wildfires are familiar to many people, and represent destruction of vegetation in wild areas, until recently, the potential loss of lives and homes in areas adjacent to wild areas was not in the public consciousness. However, the recent deadly Camp Fire Wildfire in 2018 in Northern California led to increased public awareness of the potential for a problem. Increased development in fire-prone areas and climate change have made wildfires more intense and exacerbated the need for attention to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). While Wildlands may be defined as unoccupied land, in many developed areas the interface between Wildland and Urban is a matter of 150 feet.

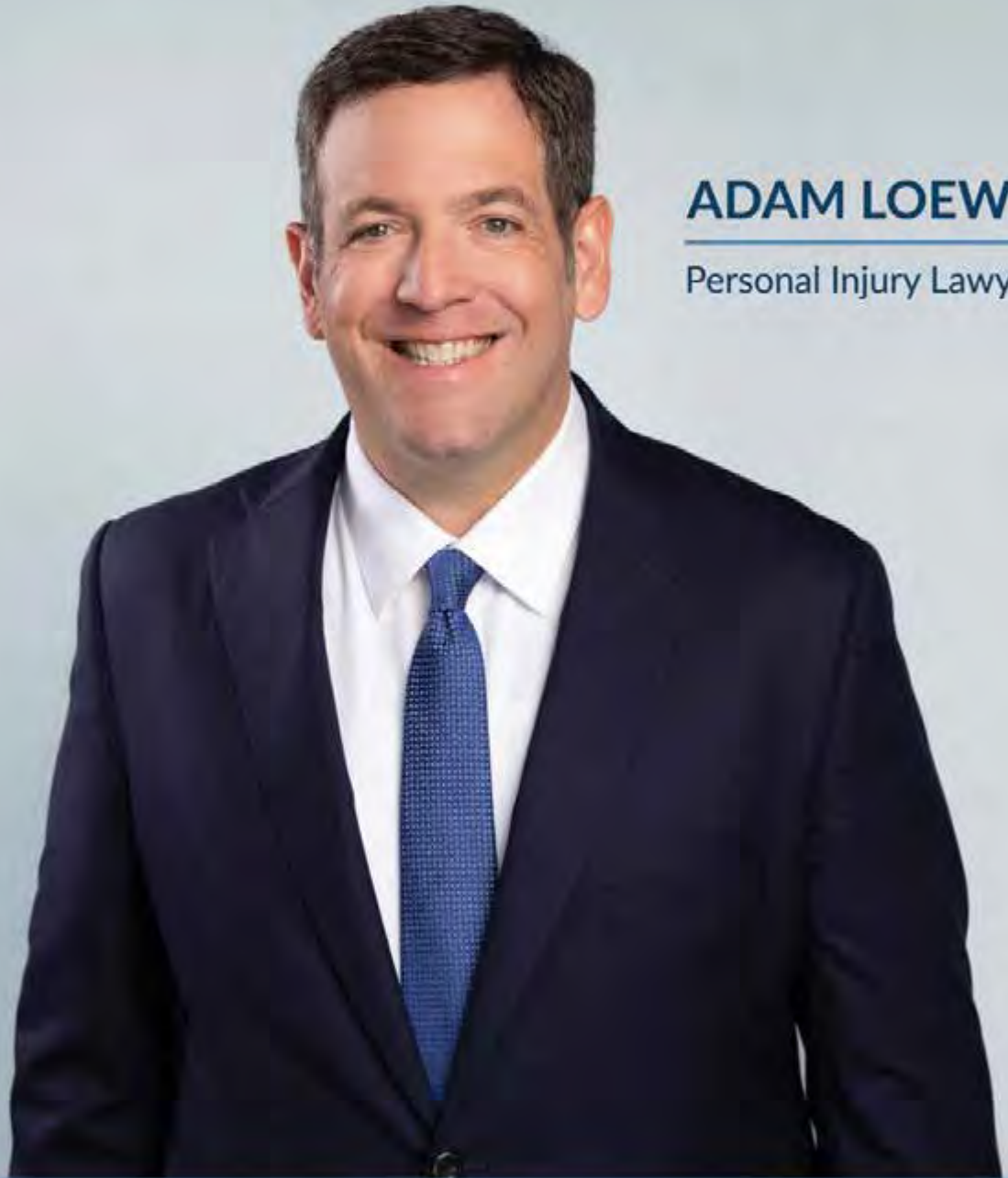
Although Wildfires in California have received more attention, seven years ago, Austin ranked third on a list of residential cities in the US most at risk for wildfire-related structure losses.

In 2019 Austin city council members received a report from the city auditor acknowledging while Austin was adequately prepared to respond to wildfires, more could be done to mitigate and reduce the risk of wildfires in Wildland-Urban Interface areas outside the urban core. The audit suggested the city adopt a years-long effort to enact requirements for *fire-resistant materials on new construction and renovated buildings* near potentially fire-prone brush and vegetation – over an area that's roughly two-thirds of the city. Other *vegetation factors* in WUI mitigation include “dead and down removal” (removing dead underbrush), setting access corridors for emergency response apparatus and invasive species management. Defensible Space, defined as a treated 39/100 foot space intended to slow or stop the spread of fire is also important, although it should be noted that with proper conditions, fires can spread ¼ to 1 mile with certain wind conditions.

Austin became the first major city in Texas to adopt a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) code. The city council unanimously adopted the Wildland-Urban Interface Code on April 9, 2020.

What and Where is the WUI; David Gimnich and Nate Casebeer 2017 handout; available through AustinTexas.gov
Wildland Urban-Interface Code; AustinTexas.gov

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FireWise Home Evaluations Continue

by Carol Phillipson



Great News....two more Jester homeowners took advantage of the FREE FireWise Home Evaluation. Lori & Charlie Cole (pic) learned lots of tips to ready their home in case of wildfire from FireWise Committee members Cindy (pic) and Carol. The Cole's home backs up to the greenbelt, *but ALL homes are equally at risk as EMBERS can travel more than a mile.*

In addition, another homeowner on Winterberry also took advantage of the FREE FireWise evaluation. This home exhibits one of the best examples of landscaping with wildfire in mind, using non-combustible materials around the home plus keeping plants/shrubs from growing too close to the home (pic). Hopefully, their immediate neighbors on either side will also learn to expand the defensible space against wildfire.

Another advantage, some home insurance companies *will give a discount* for having a FireWise evaluation. Be sure to check with your home insurance company.

To schedule your FREE FireWise Home Evaluation go to: www.jesterhoa.com

Carol Phillipson
512-431-9904



Wildlife Habitat

8104 VAILVIEW



URBAN SCAVENGER HUNT

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020 | ATX

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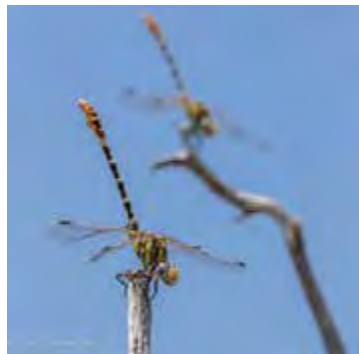
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NATURE WATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

SOME LIKE IT HOT



Eastern Ringtail Dragonfly

The dog days of summer are upon us, and a long stretch of sultry weather lies ahead. It can be a challenging time for people and for wildlife, but for some, it is their chance to put on a show.

Mountain Pink (*Zeltnera beyrichii*), also called Meadow Pink, Catchfly, or Quinine weed, is an annual herb less than a foot tall and best described as a neat bouquet of small, pink flowers.

Blooming May through July, Mountain Pink sprouts up like an inverted cone 8 to 12 inches high, on hot, rocky hillsides, limestone outcrops, and along gravelly roadways. Its leaves are threadlike and are held below the multiple 0.5 to 1.0 inch wide showy pink five-petaled blooms that provide nectar for moths, butterflies, bees, and other insects.

Woolly Ironweed (*Vernonia lindheimeri*) is a 10 to 30 inch high clumping perennial, with woolly gray stems and long, narrow leaves. Its bright purple flowers lack true petals, but the disk flowers are arranged in showy, terminal clusters. A well-behaved species that should be used more often in gardens and landscapes, Woolly Ironweed blooms from June to September, and prefers open hillsides, roadsides, and fields offering full sun. It is a good nectar source for many species of butterflies during the heat of summer, and is highly deer-resistant.

To prevent overheating on hot, summer days, some dragonflies and damselflies assume a handstand-like position called 'obelisking.'

They raise their abdomens until the tip points up toward the sun, which helps to minimize the surface area of their body that is exposed to solar radiation. Both males and females of these species will raise their abdomens when the temperature is high, and lower them again if shaded. Laboratory experiments have shown that this behavior is effective in stopping or slowing the rise in their body temperature. This method



Mountain Pink



Woolly Ironweed

of thermoregulation is practiced by about 30 different species in the Skimmer, Clubtail, and Broadwing Damselfly families. All are considered 'perchers' or sit-and-wait predators that spend a considerable amount of time stationary.

A sure sign that we are in the midst of a hot summer is the sound of cicadas buzzing in the air.

For their size, cicadas make as much noise as

a large animal, and can be heard up to a quarter of a mile away. In fact, the word 'cicada' is a direct derivation from the Latin meaning 'buzzer.' Most species of cicadas in North America are in the genus *Tibicen*, and are generally called the annual or 'dog-day' cicadas because they emerge every year in July and August, the dog days of summer.

Male cicadas have structures called 'timbals' on the sides of their abdomens, and it is with these structures that they create their buzzy songs. Unlike grasshoppers or crickets that rub their wings or legs together to produce sound, cicadas vibrate these timbals against their hollow abdomens, which amplifies the resonance of the sounds. They can even modulate the sounds by wiggling their abdomens toward or away from the tree trunk on which they are perched. Each species has its own distinctive sound, and they use different mating songs to attract the appropriate mate.

Even in the heat of a long Texas summer, nature is busy going about its mysterious ways, offering sights and sounds that can recalibrate our senses, and allow us to continue to appreciate all that it has to offer.

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

Fire Up the Grill with Smoked Fruit



(Family Features) As summer grilling season sets in, Americans grab their tongues to take advantage of backyard barbecue opportunities.

In addition to classic cookout fare like ribs, steak, chicken, burgers and hot dogs, the experts at Dole recommend giving fruits and vegetables a shot on the grill to bring out new tastes and ways to enjoy everyday favorites. For example, many barbecue enthusiasts know about grilling corn, asparagus, Brussels sprouts, onions, zucchini and artichokes, but consider trying cauliflower, portobello mushrooms, yellow-black plantains and even pineapple on the grill this summer.

In fact, this recipe for Smoked Hasselback Pineapple with Spiced Turkey Chorizo and Onion provides an easy way to make grilled fruit a fun addition to your backyard barbecue.

For other flavorful ideas, try grilled Romaine lettuce for a delightfully smoky salad or side dish, or skewer peeled and sliced bananas, chicken, shrimp and veggies for a tropical kebab. You can even throw an unpeeled banana on the grill for a uniquely caramelized dessert.

Visit dole.com for more summer grilling recipes featuring fresh fruits and vegetables.

Smoked Hasselback Pineapple with Spiced Turkey Chorizo and Onion

Total time: 2 hours

Servings: 4

4 cups favorite wood chips
water

1 pound 93% lean ground turkey breast

1 small DOLE® Red Onion, diced
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves
2 teaspoons smoked paprika
1 teaspoon ancho chile powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1 large Dole Pineapple, top on, peeled and halved lengthwise
chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish (optional)

In large bowl, cover wood chips with water; soak as label directs. Prepare outdoor grill for indirect grilling over medium heat.

In medium bowl, stir turkey, onion, oil, thyme, paprika, chile powder, cumin and salt.

Drain wood chips; place 2 cups in foil boat or pie tin and place on hot grill rack over lit side of grill (place chips directly on coals for charcoal grill). Place pineapple halves, flat side down, on cutting board; cut crosswise slices into pineapple halves, about 1/2 inch apart, cutting only 3/4 of the way through. Place medium bowl upside down; one at a time, place pineapple halves, flat side down, over bowl to separate slits. Fill slits with turkey mixture.

Place pineapple halves, flat side down, on hot grill rack over unlit side of grill; cover and cook 1 hour, 45 minutes, or until turkey mixture is golden brown and internal temperature reaches 170 F, rotating once and adding remaining chips halfway through cooking.

Transfer pineapple halves to cutting board; cut crosswise in half. Serve pineapple garnished with cilantro, if desired.



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“Teresa works very hard – the combination of effort and knowledge paid off for us.”

Claude and JoAnn Welles - Beauford Drive

“Other Jester sellers chose agents based on friendship or business ties instead of their knowledge of our neighborhood. My husband and I don't think it was coincidence that our house was under contract quicker than the others for sale at the same time.

We had lived in our Beauford house for over 30 years, so weren't at all experts in the selling process. Turns out we didn't need to be; Teresa kept us apprised of what was needed. We never had trouble contacting her and getting questions answered.

Teresa also has strong relationships with so many providers, allowing us to have a very abbreviated timeline from decision to sell through contract. I couldn't believe how many providers jumped in whenever something needed to be done. Then when the inspectors found a few surprises, she brought in experts to help us secure the best price.

Teresa was on top of everything and we would recommend her to any Jester seller. We were very pleased with her service!”

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