

The Community Connection

NEWS FOR SWEETWATER RESIDENTS



Lake Travis Film Festival
Ken Deuble as Tallahassee in
Zombieland

Zombieland Wrap Up *By Kat Albert*

The Lake Travis Film Festival hosted an outdoor event at the historically-themed Star Hill Ranch on Hamilton Pool Road on Thursday October 29th, 2020. With plenty of room for physical distancing, temperature-taking and mask-wearing, it was a fun-filled and safe evening. Many attendees reiterated that it felt almost normal and they missed seeing people.

Spooky witches and nostalgic movie characters filled the Star Hill Ranch

grounds as attendees safely mingled. Guests enjoyed food and drinks catered by local Mexican food restaurant, Verdes and browsed the merchandise table, where trendy “Lake Travis” t-shirts, cups, hats and more were available for purchase.

Soon thereafter, guests enjoyed a screening of Ruben Fleischer’s Zombieland. The screening was followed by the announcement of the evening’s costume contest winners. Ken Deuble as Tallahassee and Denise Pischinger as Sandy from “Grease” took home the win for best costume, though many attendees came dressed to impress. Membership chair, Darcy Benwell welcomed guests and encouraged membership as a way to support the festival which is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

The 2nd Annual Lake Travis Film Festival will be held June 10-13, 2021 at locations throughout Bee Cave and Lakeway. Watch the website: www.laketravisfilmfestival.com for up-to-date information.

See three pictures below:



LTFE Membership Chair welcomes guests and explains the benefits of membership.
Photo by Leo Sopicki

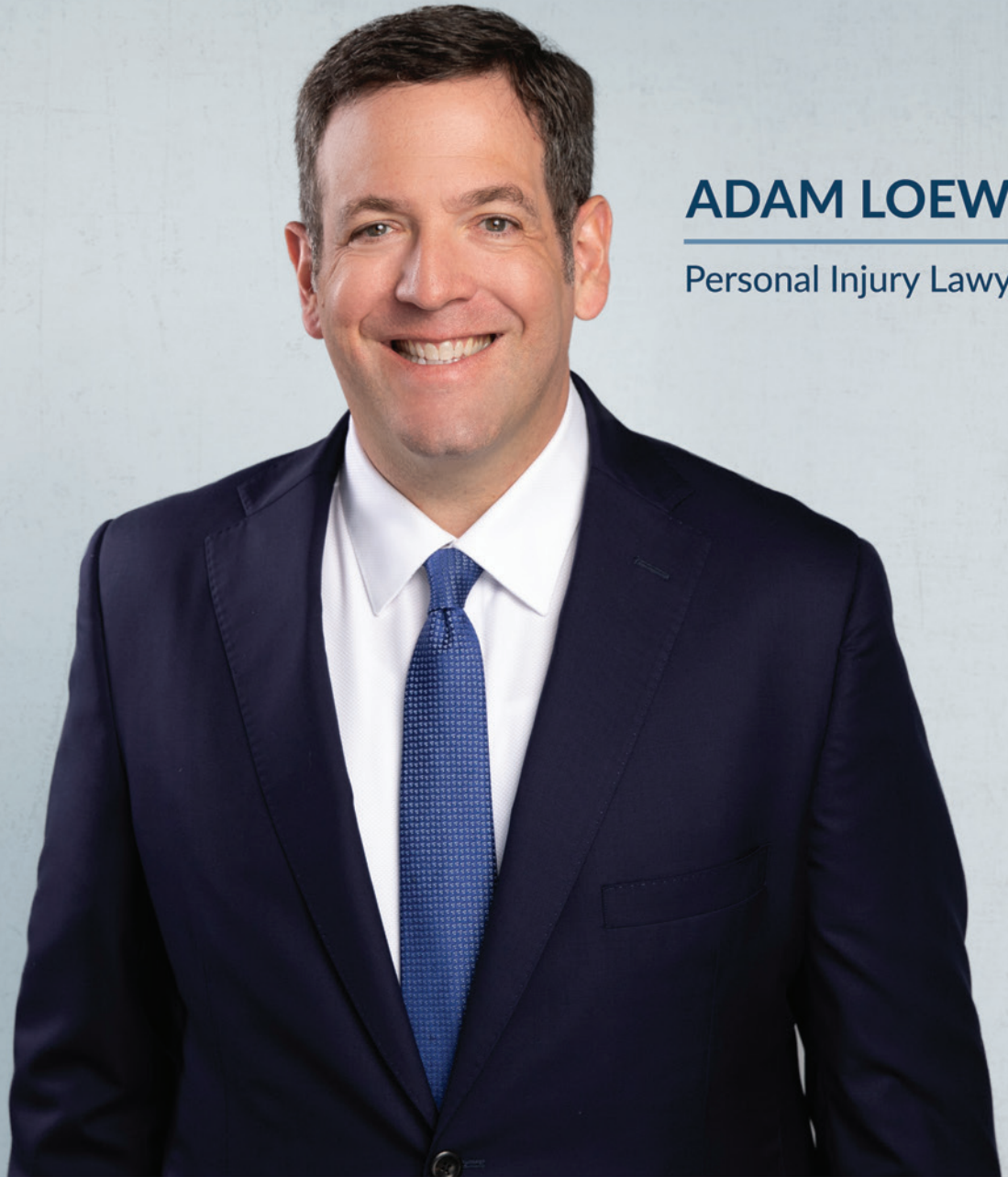


Star Hill Ranch employee draws the space lines for attendees to use when setting up their chairs. Photo by Leo Sopicki



Registration Team Member, Denise Pischinger pursues LTFE SWAG before the screening. Photo by Leo Sopicki

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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.



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NATURE WATCH

MERRY MISTLETOE

by Jim and Lynne Weber



Beloved Emarginea Moth

medieval times branches of mistletoe were hung from the ceiling to ward off evil spirits. With the process of immigration and settlement of North America, traditions associated with the European plant were transferred to the New World and evolved into a folklore all its own.



Christmas Mistletoe

species. It has small, elliptical evergreen leaves and smooth green stems covered by short hairs, with tiny green flowers on the male plant and shiny white berries on the female plant. Widely used in the United States as a Christmas decoration, it is especially common growing on Sugar Hackberry, Cedar Elm, Honey Mesquite and other hardwood trees in Texas as well as Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Mississippi.



Great Purple Hairstreak

From the earliest times mistletoe has been considered one of the most magical, mysterious, and sacred plants found in European folklore. Originally used to bestow life and fertility, as a protection from poison, and as an aphrodisiac, in

In Central Texas, two species of mistletoe are native, the Christmas Mistletoe (*Phoradendron tomentosum*) and Oak Mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*). The genus comes from the Greek 'phor' which means thief and 'dendron' which means tree, as both species are semiparasites that steal water and nutrients from their host trees. Christmas Mistletoe is by far the most common of the two

While mistletoe is often viewed by humans as a nuisance, it is an important species for wildlife. It is the larval host plant for the Great Purple Hairstreak butterfly and the Beloved Emarginea moth, and its berries are relished by winter resident bird species such as Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, and American Robins. These birds eat the berries and spread the seeds through their droppings and by wiping their beaks on tree

branches, both of which may cause a new plant to take hold. Interestingly, seeds deposited in this way first spend considerable time and energy developing their roots within the branch's tissue before sprouting external stems and leaves.

While ancient folklore has attributed a wide range of mystical abilities to mistletoe, none is more fascinating than the myth of Frigga, the Norse Mother Goddess worshiped by pre-Christian people of northern Europe, and how mistletoe became her sacred plant. She was believed to be the mother of Balder, the God of the Summer Sun, who had a dream of death. Alarmed by this dream, Frigga went to all the elements, plants, and animals to seek a promise that no harm would come to her son. Balder was thought to be safe from harm by anything on or under the Earth.

But Balder's enemy, Loki, was the God of Evil, and he knew of the one plant that Frigga overlooked. It was the lowly mistletoe, which grew neither on nor under the Earth itself, but on the branches of oaks and other trees. Loki made an arrow tip with the mistletoe, and gave it to the Hoder, the blind God of Winter, who used it to strike Balder dead. The sky paled and everything wept for the Sun God, who was restored by Frigga after working with the elements for three days. The tears she shed for her son were said to be the pearly white berries of the mistletoe, and in her joy at his resurrection she kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree on which it grew.

Thus began the custom that whomever should stand beneath the humble mistletoe will come to no harm, but receive only a kiss as a token of love. Merry mistletoe to you and yours!

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.



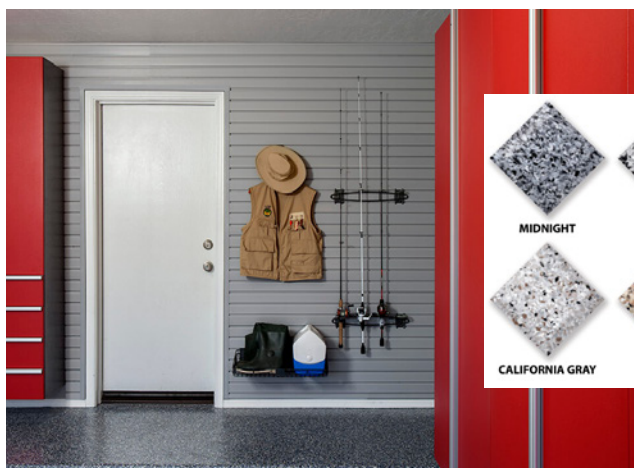
Mistletoe Flowers



Mistletoe Berries



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DELICIOUS COOKIES!

INGREDIENTS:

- Unsalted Butter
- Sugar
- Egg Yolk
- Pure Vanilla Extract
- All-Purpose Flour
- Baking Soda & Salt
- Semi-Sweet
- Chocolate Chips

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350°F and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Set the baking sheet aside and prepare your cookie dough.

Cookie Dough: beat butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar together for one minute or until well combined. Mix in egg yolk and pure vanilla extract.

Then add the flour, baking soda, and salt and mix them in until just combined. Add the semi-sweet chocolate chips and fold them into the cookie dough. Cover the cookie dough tightly, place it in the freezer to chill for 10 minutes.

After chilled, remove cookie dough and use 1.5 tbsn cookie scoop and scoop onto baking sheet. (place 8-10 scoops now)

Bake cookies for 10-12 mins until lightly browned around edges.

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