

HABITAT HERALD

Wildlife Austin's monthly Newsletter



Wildlife Austin

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11, 10A-12P, Waterfront Walkabout, <http://austintexas.gov/event/waterfront-walkabout-new-date>

January 11, 9A-12P, Ready, Set, Plant! At Commons Ford Ranch, 614 Commons Ford Rd <http://www.treefolks.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

January 25, 9A-12P, Ready, Set, Plant! At Blunn Creek at Little Stacy Park, <http://www.treefolks.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

January 29th, 4P-5P, Eliza Springs Day Lighting Meeting, www.austintexas.gov/department/eliza-spring-daylighting

January 2014



Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope you all had a great holiday season and are looking forward to starting a new year. I know that many of you may be lacking in the creativity department this time of year. To help cheer you up and remind you of warmer, sunnier days I have a great Garden of the Month by one of our Habitat Stewards Jeannie Ferrier. Jeannie not only incorporates numerous water features in her garden but also creates her own garden art out of recycled materials proving that you can have an interesting garden all year round.

In other news, Wildlife Austin has received quite a few calls in regards to coyotes so please check out some coyote and wildland urban interface tips on page 6.

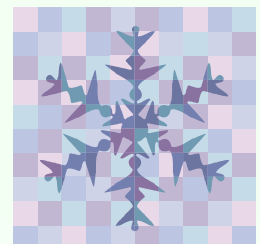
Also there will be a wonderful free event put on by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center where adults can learn about tree care and identification while the kids roast marshmallows, climb trees with certified arborists, build forts and much more. So shake off those winter blues and get out there and enjoy the green!

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Would you like to receive the newsletter?

E-mail us at wildlife@austintexas.gov



Garden of the Month

January's Garden of the Month comes from one of our Habitat Stewards and soon-to-be Pond Society's president, Jeannie Ferrier! Jeannie was kind enough to let me take a tour of her amazing yard in south Austin. Jeannie has been gardening in her back yard for over 15 years and over that time has added many unique ponds and pieces of artwork. Her koi originally came from the Zilker Botanical Garden. She has donated many of her koi fish to various organizations including Dell Children's Hospital so that they can create their own pond area for clients to enjoy.



Also, Jeannie has incorporated rain barrels to help feed her ponds, vegetable garden and a composting system. She also makes her own poison ivy spray with orange oil and vinegar. Jeannie creates her own yard decorations including wind chimes from old silverware, glass bottle trees, and mosaics. She is proof that you can create art from just about anything and that regardless of the season there is always something to admire in your garden. Thank you Jeannie and Steve for providing us with such wonderful inspiration!



Garden of the Month



Would you like to share your yard with other gardeners? If so please write to wild-life@austintexas.gov for more details!

LIVING IN A WUI WITHOUT ALL THE HOOEY

Coyote Interactions

Coyotes are one of the few large predators whose population and range has increased in the United States over the past century. While black bears, brown bears, gray wolves, red wolves, and mountain lions have suffered extreme population reductions and have been extirpated from areas where they traditionally ranged, coyotes have expanded from their historic range in the western United States to occupy all 49 continental states, in both rural and urban areas.



Coyotes are generalists, and are therefore excellent urban adapters. They can be found in natural and developed habitats, including residential areas, and especially in wildland urban interface areas. While coyotes are generally skittish around people, there are some standard procedures to follow if you live in an area where coyote interactions are common.

Keep pets indoors or on a leash, and attend small children who are playing outdoors. Coyotes often target small prey, which can unfortunately sometimes include domesticated pets. While attacks on humans are quite rare, an aggressive coyote is more likely to attack a child than an adult due to their smaller size.

If you do encounter an aggressive coyote, make loud noises and spread your arms to appear larger. Report any aggressive coyote encounters to 311. If you encounter a coyote that is bold (but not aggressive), making loud noises to scare the animal away can help the coyote maintain a healthy fear of humans.

As generalists, coyotes will take advantage of a variety of food sources. Make sure your trash is secured. If you have observed coyotes on your property and would like to discourage their presence, you may want to temporarily remove any water sources or feeders until the animal moves on. Coyotes not only take advantage of water sources themselves, but learn to hunt other smaller animals that may be attracted to your backyard habitat.

Respect coyotes. Many people see them as pests, mostly as a result of behavior resulting from becoming too bold around humans. Never attempt to feed or tame a coyote- the pups may be cute, but coyotes are wild animals. Humane hazing of coyotes can help keep them wild. Remember that they are native to the area and are a vital link in the Austin ecosystem food chain, which supports no other significant populations of large predators.

By Park Ranger Julie Webber



Tree Talk Winter Walk at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center January 25th, 2014 9:00A-5:00P

Celebrate Texas trees in the Arboretum while learning about understory trees for your yard, ideal trees for wildlife habitat, tree care at this Saturday event. Kids can climb trees with professional arborists, build a fort with tree limbs and branches, go on a tree scavenger hunt and more while adults learn tree care tips and purchase native woody species for planting.

Tree & Shrub Sale - In the midst of the worst drought in decades, take this opportunity to replace non-natives with hardy Texas natives and plant more for the future. It's still a great time to plant trees!

In addition to a wide selection of native trees and shrubs for sale, there will be guided walks and talks by experts and lots of family-friendly activities including Kids' Tree Climb sponsored by [They Might Be Monkeys](#), Build a Fort, Marshmallow Roast, Swing in the Cathedral of Oaks and a Tree Scavenger Hunt. TreeFolks is providing native tree saplings to those who complete the scavenger hunt.

Walks & Talks

(Meet at the Tent Area)

10 a.m. Walk and Talk with Eric Beckers, Texas Forest Service

11 a.m. Tree Identification- TreeFolks

12 p.m. Trees for Habitat- Jane Tillman, Travis Audubon

2 p.m. How To Keep Your Trees Strong- Don Gardner, Consulting Arborist

3 p.m. Oak Wilt Identification & Treatment- Chris Dolan, City of Austin

Kids Activities

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kids' Tree Climb sponsored by They Might Be Monkeys! Texas Tree & Land Co. (Oak Motte Area)

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fort Building (By Tree Climb)

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Scavenger Hunt

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Tent Area)

Capital Area Master Naturalists "TREE-mendous Trees!" activity for kids 10 and older and families

- Educational Tables (featuring leaves, berries, bark, bird nests)
- Count Tree Rings
- Make paper tree cookies
- Make leaf rubbing booklet
- What Comes from a Tree



If you have suggestions on what you would like to see in the newsletter please contact wildlife@austintexas.gov, we'd love to hear from you!

"Like"

[Austin Parks and Recreation-Parks in Nature](#)



The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call (512) 974-6700.