

AROUND THE BEND

October, 2009 Vol. XXVI, Issue 1

Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association

From Article II of our Bylaws: The purpose of the Association shall be to protect and promote the quality of life and the value of property in our neighborhood.

Inside this Issue

- 1 - President's Message
- 2 - Report on Annual Trash Cleanup
- 3 - U-Turn your Brush!
-Citrus, Anyone?
- 4 - A Pedestrian Subject:
Sidewalks?
- 5 - What lives in my backyard?
- 6 - Texas Forest Service:
Firewise--Homeowner Resources
- 7 - Christmas Tree Recycling
- 8 - Recipes from Liz Haife
- 9 - Annual Meeting and Picnic
- 10 - Restoring the HBR Marker
- It's not Easy Being Green
- 11 - Holiday Calendar
- Rainbow



President's Message

Patricia King Sigg

Our annual meeting this year was a great success, as described by Lory Alexander in this newsletter. I would like to thank once more our departing President, Rena Schrader, and our long-time vital Board member and officer, Erika Rogala.

I also especially thank our two new Directors, Elizabeth Brunet and Tom Struppeck. We not only welcome but need new faces and fresh ideas!

Speaking of fresh ideas, we hope to add a feature to our annual meeting next April. Arts and crafts encompass many activities and hobbies that relate to making things by hand and developing a skill in doing so. We suspect that there are quite a few residents in our neighborhood with such skills who might be willing to share them with the community. We would like to invite members, neighbors and their family members who would like to either display or sell their crafts to do so at our meeting. It will be held at the home of Tom and Anita Science on Forest Way. They have a large back yard so there will be plenty of room for all who wish to participate. (Please plan to bring your own display tables.)

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it informative. There are articles about wild birds, fire safety, handling hazardous waste, brush recycling, growing citrus trees, and even holiday recipes and a holiday events calendar.

We are already looking forward to the 2009 annual picnic. We encourage everyone to attend to enjoy barbecue, music, an interesting speaker, and to become a member of the association and elect the new board.

And especially, don't forget the arts and crafts show and plan to participate. Kurt Baty has already promised to bring some of his national award-winning Lego ship models, which must be seen to be believed!

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season. Reach out to a neighbor with a warm hello and know that it's the people in the homes that create this great neighborhood.

The 2009 Hudson Bend Annual Trash Cleanup

Lory Alexander



Association members picked up trash for several hours on September 13th, the day of the Lake Travis cleanup. Although

this is the "official" day the HBCNA participates, it is by no means the only day residents work to keep the neighborhood nice. Dyan Bennett is a frequent sight picking up trash on her daily walks. In addition, several neighbors helped clean up trash along the waterfront while the lake was at historic lows. We thank everyone for their efforts.

U-Turn Your Brush!

Cindy Banister and Nancy Weiss

A burn permit has been of no use this year. The drought has forced us to find a new home for our tree trimmings and shrub clippings.

We recently hauled a truckload to Lake Travis Brush Recycling, located @ 7911 FM 620 North (across from the Home Depot near Four Points.) They have mounds and mounds of chippings. Our cost to leave the truckload was \$15.

They also sell hardwood mulch for \$20/yd. It is comprised of a little bit of everything. It looked like a good product, so we bought a yard and spread it in a large flower bed. We have since purchased more mulch which we applied on some of our paths in our backyard. We are pleased with how it looks and the fact that it has not washed away with our recent heavy downpours.

The cost to recycle our brush was \$15 for the truckload. We purchased the hardwood mulch for \$20 a yard. We were in and out in less than 10 minutes. So, you can haul your brush one way and return the other way with

Join the HBCNA!

\$40 per year per family

some good mulch. Green for all.

Citrus, Anyone?

Cindy Banister

Nancy and I have always enjoyed working with plants. Maybe it's the idea of getting our hands dirty, not to mention being able to see the "fruits" of our labors. About 23 years ago, Nancy got her first citrus tree, a Eureka lemon. When we moved to Hudson Bend 12 years ago, the lemon tree came with us. Through the years it has been transplanted into bigger pots and has consistently yielded good crops of lemons to enjoy.

I grew up in the Rio Grande Valley where there was always an abundance of fresh fruit. My grandfather owned several groves and a fruit market for many years in the La Feria area. My parents had several citrus trees in their back yard. One year, my father gave Nancy a Marrs orange tree. That's all it took. Now it seems like every time we go to the Valley, we add another tree to our "potted" grove. At last count, we have 16 trees, a nice mix of lemon, lime, tangerine, orange and grapefruit.

Citrus trees can be purchased locally too. We're thankful the trees all survived our long, hot summer. They have all done well in pots, plastic or clay. They need to be in at least a 16"-18"-inch pot, with good potting soil and drainage. They do become quite heavy, but can be relocated with a good dolly. Since we are not getting any younger, we usually transplant from a clay to a larger plastic pot when need arises. Nancy usually feeds them at least quarterly with Medina Hasta-Gro.

The trees winter in our greenhouse. If you do not have a

greenhouse, they can winter outside with some type of thermal plant cover. Believe me, there is nothing like walking into the greenhouse over the winter and smelling the citrus blooms!

We especially enjoy the key limes. They are a wonderful little fruit to use in key lime pies, a cold beer or a frozen margarita.

If you have considered purchasing a citrus tree for your home, we heartily recommend it.

A Pedestrian Subject: Sidewalks

Patricia King Sigg

We occasionally get inquiries about the possibility of sidewalks along Hudson Bend Road. What we've learned is discouraging.

The county will not install sidewalks on "country roads" and will not pay for their construction. They will maintain them after they are built but only if they meet the county's requirements. They do, however, have requirements relating to design and construction, drainage, and logistics. Furthermore, they must be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The county also requires an up-front deposit of \$3/sq. ft. to insure compliance; it's returned if the project is compliant and used to bring it up to standard if not.

The requirements are covered in §82.202, "Layout Requirements for Street and Drainage," on the www.co.travis.tx.us website. If you have questions not answered here, please call Tim Pautsch (854-7689).

The bottom line, unfortunately, is that there seems to be no agency willing to take on and finance such a major project.

AROUND THE BEND

What lives in my backyard?

Tom Struppeck

This is the first in a series of articles about the wildlife that inhabits the Hudson Bend area.

Earlier this summer I saw a bird in a wooded area. The bird acted hurt and seemed to be trying to get my attention. It drew me away from the area and then it disappeared into the woods. I returned the next day and found the bird again. This time it was sitting very still on the ground. Again it flew off and tried to draw my attention. It had been sitting on the ground on one lone egg. There was no obvious nest; the egg was simply sitting on a pile of leaves. It was slightly pinkish, somewhat smaller than a small chicken egg, and it blended in very well.

The third day, when I returned, there was a second egg. I returned each day to monitor the progress of the nesting bird and her soon-to-be brood. From photographs that I took, I was able to determine that the bird is a kind of nightjar called a Chuck-will's-widow. In the early summer at night you may have heard them calling --- they sound much like their name. The bird is often confused with another nightjar, the whip-poor-will, but whip-poor-wills are much less common in the Hudson Bend area.

These are nocturnal birds, meaning that they are active at night. The eggs and chicks of ground nesting birds are susceptible to all kinds of predator; because of this, the eggs develop into chicks very rapidly. And once the chicks hatch, they fledge (leave the nest) very quickly also.

Since they are nocturnal birds, the parents teach the chicks to fly at night! Presumably, learning to fly is easier when there is some light; this light comes from the full moon. The timing is critical and predictable. The eggs hatch nine days before the full moon. The chicks then fledge on the full moon.

Sure enough, nine days before the full moon the eggs hatched right on schedule. I was able to take this picture of the one of the two chicks that had hatched just hours before.



Chuck-Will's-Widow chick, newly-hatched

Do you notice the funny protrusion at the chick's mouth? This is called an egg-tooth. It is how the baby bird escapes from inside its eggshell. The baby bird cuts its way out with the egg-tooth which is soon lost, having served its purpose. Egg-teeth aren't as rare as hen's teeth (every hen had one!), but they are pretty rare nonetheless.

Texas Forest Service – Firewise: Resources for the Homeowner

Patricia King Sigg

Prompted by Fire Chief Jim Linardos' talk at our annual meeting, I spoke with Jan Fulkerson of the Wild Land and Urban Interface section of the Forest Service about fire safety information for the homeowner. She referred me to this site:

<http://www.firewise.org/resources/homeowner.htm>.

Resources listed there include:

- **Safer from the Start – A guide to Firewise – Friendly Developments**
<http://www.firewise.org/resources/files/Safer-From-the-Start.pdf>
This webpage resource discusses that by, “building safer from the start, the communities of tomorrow have a better chance of surviving – and thriving – in a fire-prone environment.”

- **Peak Fire Seasons**
- http://www.firewise.org/resources/peak_fire_seasons/
This webpage resource shows the peak wildfire seasons across the US from January to December.
- **Firewise Checklists**
<http://www.firewise.org/usa/files/fwlists.pdf>
This resource provides a "Firewise" checklist for landscaping and construction materials.
- **Is Your Home Protected From Wildfire Disaster?**
<http://www.firewise.org/resources/files/wildfr2.pdf>
This resource discusses how to view the risk to your home based on past fire trends, topography, landscaping and local weather.
- **Firewise - Around Your Home**
http://www.firewise.org/resources/files/fw_brochure.pdf
This resource provides a useful brochure that addresses how to choose materials when building a home that can decrease the fuel and exposure. The brochure states, "Any structure that is attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences and sheds should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuses or fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials." The brochure then discusses how the landscape of the land around your house to reduce the risk to your home.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can call Jan Fulkerson at (979) 220-1010 or email isjfulkerson@tfs.tamu.edu and she will mail you the information.



Don't know what to do with the tree when the holidays are over? Easy – take it to the recycle drop off at Mansfield Dam. After the holidays, watch for the sign off 620 and let them dispose of your tree.

Holiday Recipes from Liz Hafe

Mashed Sweet Potatoes

- 10 sweet potatoes, peeled and quartered (you can also use canned sweet potatoes)
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup butter
- 3 tablespoons white sugar
- 2 cups marshmallows

- Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add potatoes and cook until tender but still firm, about 15 minutes. Drain, cool and mash.
- Preheat oven broiler.
- Mix mashed potatoes with orange juice, butter and sugar until smooth. Spread in a 9x13 inch baking dish. Cover with marshmallows.
- Place dish under preheated broiler until marshmallows melt and turn brown, 5 to 10 minutes.

Apricot Chicken

- 8 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 16 ounces apricot preserves
- ½ cup orange juice
- 1 lemon (juiced)
- ½ teaspoon chopped rosemary
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

- Preheat oven to 450°
- Season chicken with salt and pepper to taste
- Brown both sides of chicken in skillet about 5 minutes on each side
- Transfer to baking dish
- Combine preserves, juices, rosemary, salt, and pepper in a saucepan
- Heat to bubbling: pour over chicken
- Bake in oven for 15 minutes
- Serve with rice and apricot sauce

Tiramisu

- ½ (16 ounce) package mascarpone cheese (cream cheese)
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 ½ cups whipping cream, divided
- 1 cup hot water
- 1 tablespoon instant coffee granules
- ¼ cup coffee liqueur
- 24 lady fingers (two 3 ounce packages)
- 1 teaspoon unsweetened cocoa

- Beat cheese, sugar and ½ cup whipping cream at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy
- Beat remaining two cups whipping cream at medium speed with an electric mixer until soft peaks form. Fold into cheese mixture
- Stir together 1 cup hot water and coffee granules until granules dissolve. Stir in liqueur
- Spilt lady fingers in ½ and brush cut sides of lady fingers evenly with coffee mixture

AROUND THE BEND

-Arrange one fourth of lady fingers in bottom of a four quart trifle bowl. Top with one fourth of cheese mixture. Repeat layers three times. Sprinkle with cocoa. Chill tiramisu at least two hours.
Yield: 8 servings.

2009 Annual Meeting and Picnic

Lory Alexander; Photos by Rena Schrader

The annual corporate membership meeting of the HBCNA was held April 25, 2009 at the Sigg's home on the cove. The weather was nice, the food delicious, and the music and speaker were outstanding!

Local band **About7** welcomed neighborhood residents with their unique blend of music and distinctive sound. Using a variety of instruments, association members Patricia (mountain dulcimer) and Thomas Sigg (stand-up bass) Steve Schrader (Cajon), Mike McBride (guitar), Mike Miller (mandolin), and Marc Pelton (guitar and harmonica) delighted the crowd. Readers may recall tha Mike is the architect and developer of our neighborhood marker, featured in our logo and on the cover of this newsletter.

The following slate of officers was unanimously approved:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Patricia King Sigg | President |
| Tom Sciance | Vice-President |
| Lory Alexander | Secretary |
| Steve Hudson | Treasurer |
| Gary Barron | Director |
| Elizabeth Brunet | Director |
| John Chapman | Director |
| Tom Struppeck | Director |
| Stan Tyler | Director |



Erika Rogala accepts a certificate of appreciation for her long association and extensive contributions to HBCNA from Patricia King Sigg, President.



Fire Chief Jim Linardos explains how the enlarged district with its expanded responsibility requires widely-spaced vehicles to reduce response time. This in turn limits the number of vehicles and volunteers that can respond to a situation quickly. The bottom line is that Lake Travis Fire and Rescue will need more people and equipment to meet all of the area's needs.

Our speaker for the evening was Jim Linardos, Fire Chief for Lake Travis Fire Rescue. Originally known as the Hudson Bend Fire Department because of the original area it started serving in the 1960's, its name was recently changed to reflect the larger area served now--over 200 square miles. Fire Chief Linardos talked about fire prevention, a very important topic in these

dry times. Afterwards, Jim and his wife joined us for food and fun.

Restoring the THC Marker on Hudson Bend Road

Patricia King Sigg

We received a letter from the Hudson Bend Garden Club (HBGC) inviting us to help homeowner's groups, local businesses and individuals to replace an important historical marker commemorating the settlement of the Hudson Bend area on the Colorado River.

The site of the marker, distinguished by a large live oak tree, is located on the west side of Hudson Bend Road about two hundred feet north of the Doss Road intersection. The tract was dedicated by Mr. Paul Keller in 1978. Three years ago the marker was struck in a vehicular accident and subsequently removed by vandals. The garden club's goal is to raise approximately \$2,500 to replace the marker and restore landscape at the site. Two large protective bollards will be constructed to prevent any repeat of the above described incident. The site will be permanently maintained by garden club members.

The HBCNA donated \$100.00 dollars to the Hudson Bend Garden Club. If you would like to have further information regarding this restoration, please call Doris Law (266-2394) or David Steed (266-3055).

It's Not Easy Being Green

Steve Hudson

These days it's hard to figure out how our actions affect the environment. Buy a hybrid car and some will tell you that disposing of the batteries is harmful. Use E85 in your flex fuel car and they say that growing the corn uses too many pesticides and too much water. Should you buy your organically grown foods from the chain store or the local farmers market? It's becoming more and more difficult to make smart environmental choices. In the immortal words of Kermit the Frog: "It's not easy being green." Well I'm here to tell you about something you can do that is unambiguously green. Dispose of your household hazardous waste properly!

What is household hazardous waste?

Anything that is flammable, corrosive, toxic, poisonous, reactive, or explosive is hazardous and should not be put in your trash. Look for words like "Caution," "Warning" or "Danger" on the label.

Common hazardous waste items around the house include paints and solvents, lawn care chemicals, household cleaning products and automotive products. Products such as batteries, thermometers and fluorescent lights are also hazardous. There are four categories of household hazardous waste:

Paints and Solvents

Latex paint, oil-based paint, furniture strippers, solvents, paint thinners, etc.

Lawn Care Chemicals

Fertilizers, pesticides, pool chemicals, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.

Cleaning Products

Bleach or products containing bleach, ammonia or ammonia-based products, all-purpose cleaners, furniture polish, spot removers, scouring powder, oven cleaner, bathroom cleaners, bug spray, etc.

Automotive Products

Motor oil, oil filters, gasoline, anti-freeze, lubricants, car batteries, brake fluid, transmission fluid, car wax, metal polish, etc.

All of these can be recycled at the City of Austin's Hazardous Waste drop off facility. It's located at 2514 Business Center Dr. in South Austin. Hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12 noon to 6 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month, 7 a.m. to 12 noon. And best of all it's free! All residents of Travis County can drop off household hazardous waste.

Now I know what you are thinking, driving over to the facility is a lot of trouble, so why not just pour the stuff down the drain or put it in the trash. That is bad. It's dangerous for the trash collection workers and putting chemicals down the drain can damage your septic system. Pouring them out on the ground is easier than disposing of them properly, but do you really want the chemicals to end up in Lake Travis. I think not.

Austin does not accept radioactive waste, medical waste, explosives, computers or appliances, or tires.

New or nearly new products are stored at the Public Reuse Store and given away on a first come, first served basis. Products such as motor oil, antifreeze, and latex paint are recycled. Everything else is disposed of properly

For more information call the Austin Hazardous Waste folks at 974 4343 or go to their web site at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/hhw.htm>.

AROUND THE BEND

Almost of all us have some old paint, motor oil, or pesticides sitting around that we need to get rid of, so do the green thing and take them to the City of Austin collection facility.

If I could put time in a bottle



**Lake Travis Animal Hospital & Pet Resort
Jason Foster, DVM and Craig Meyer, DVM**

3721 RR 620 North, Austin, TX 787
PHONE: 266-2421 FAX: 266-1899

- Largest lake area animal practice
- Complete in-house diagnostics
- Convenient drop-off service
- Friendly, concerned and highly skilled Staff
- Boarding for established clients

Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Emergency after
hours: call 331-6121

Serving the Lake Travis area since 1980

Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve

John Chapman

If you haven't taken a tour or attended a workshop at the Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve you've overlooked a wonderful gem in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Forty years ago, David Bamberger was on a mission "to buy the worst piece of ranchland he could find in the Hill Country". He found 5,500 acres of dry, rugged land in Blanco County, just south of Johnson City. The land was not barren. It was overgrown with ashe juniper, commonly known as cedar, and cactus. Besides being the source of the pollen that causes "cedar fever", the juniper tree's peculiar-shaped leaves catch and hold a lot of precious rainfall during our infrequent rainy days. Later, it wicks it away to the atmosphere.

Mr. Bamberger and his team of conservationists studied this and other water-hoarding plants and determined that what we see today in much of the Hill Country is not native to Texas at all. They determined that over the past 150 years the area's plant life has changed. Gone are the native wandering buffalo herds which nibbled on mostly native grasses. In their place European cattle were introduced restricted to fenced pastures. Overgrazing has led to the loss of native grasses and the explosion of plants like the juniper.

Since 1969 the staff of Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve has removed 95% of the invasive species, replanted many native grasses and trees and managed livestock in a way that has permitted the land to heal itself. Where no running water was once found, springs now bubble and flow. This

working laboratory is showing by example how to take care the environment.

Spend a few minutes on the web (www.bambergeranch.org) to learn more about the Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve. Located just 52 miles through the Texas Hill Country from Hudson Bend Colony, there are numerous tours and workshops available. I know from experience that one must plan ahead to take advantage of this restored oasis.



A Welcome Sight!

Lory Alexander photographed what we all hope is the end of the "exceptional drought" that has devastated crops, trees and landscaping in our area. This rainbow appeared late in the afternoon after we received over an inch of rain in a short period of time.

AROUND THE BEND

December 2009 Holidays						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	30 <small>6:30 PM Illuminate Lakeway Holiday Lights</small>	1	2	3	4	5 <small>*Boat Parade of Lights, Carlos'n Charles</small>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <small>*Boat Parade of Lights, Johnny Fins</small>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <small>Lake Travis ISD Winter Holidays Begin</small>	22	23	24	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26
27	28	29	30	31 <small>New Year's Eve *Party, free fajita Buffet, Johnny Fins</small>	1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2
3	4 <small>Schools Resume</small>	5	6	January 2010		

HUDSON BEND COLONY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
16658 FOREST WAY
AUSTIN, TX 78734



