

# Around the Bend

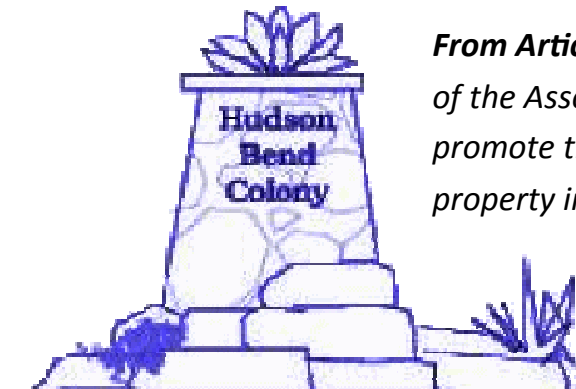
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## Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association

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***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.***

## President's Message

*By Kyle Kelly, New HBCNA President*

Would you recognize your neighborhood association Board members if you encountered them in the neighborhood? Most of us would have to admit that we would not. When I first moved to the Hudson Bend Colony neighborhood in the spring of 2010, I made a decision to not let that be the case for yet another neighborhood in which I resided. I volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors and I began to actively contribute to the neighborhood association events and newsletters. At the Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association (HBCNA) annual picnic this past April I was elected by the membership as its president and I am honored to serve the HBCNA in that role. (I have included my picture with this article to help you recognize me in our community.) I want to thank the out-going president Tom Struppeck for his service to the HBCNA during his term as president, and for his continued service as he remains on the Board of Directors.



As your neighborhood association's new president, I would like to ask each of you reading this newsletter – what activities and/or efforts would you like to see the association undertake to enhance our neighborhood? What would it take to get you actively involved in our voluntary neighborhood association? Most neighborhood associations take on the 'personality' of the people that serve on the Board, along with maybe a handful of active neighbors. However, for a neighborhood association to address the concerns and desires of the residential community over which it presides, as well as take on a 'personality' that is more reflective of the collective

neighborhood, it is helpful for the Board members to receive input from the association's residents. Please feel free to contact me to share your ideas and suggestions for efforts that you would like to see undertaken in the Hudson Bend Colony neighborhood. My email is [KKelly33@rocketmail.com](mailto:KKelly33@rocketmail.com) I genuinely look forward to hearing from you and sharing your input with my fellow Board members.

## **Recap of the 2013 Annual Spring Meeting and Picnic**

*By Kyle Kelly*

Were you with us this last April for our annual HBCNA business meeting and picnic? If not you missed a fabulous event!

The HBCNA Board selected a gem of a location for the event right here in our local community.

The LaHacienda RV Resort on Hudson Bend Road,



owned by Ken and Lydia Butsthek, provided the HBCNA the use of its wonderful enclosed pavilion facility. The business meeting at the beginning of the event lasted about 15 minutes and resulted in the election of the following Board members and associated positions:

Kyle Kelly	<b>President</b>	John Chapman	<b>Vice-President</b>
Lory Alexander	<b>Secretary</b>	Tom Sciance	<b>Treasurer</b>
Elizabeth Brunet	<b>Director</b>	Steve Hudson	<b>Director</b>
Tom Struppeck	<b>Director</b>	Kyle Adams	<b>Director</b>
Jacob Lutz	<b>Director</b>		

I want to thank my fellow Board members for their willingness to voluntarily participate (in many cases over several years) in helping to enhance the neighborhood known as Hudson Bend Colony. I especially want to thank Jacob Lutz who is brand new to our neighborhood as well as to the Board.



The event continued after the meeting with a very informative presentation by master naturalist Jane Tillman about the birds, their related songs, and their preferred habitats found in our Hud-



son Bend area. The delicious BBQ picnic meal was catered by returning HBCNA favorite Ben Holder of Holdin' Smoke, and the music was provided by Bo Porter who is a local musician that resides close by in Apache Shores. Given that Bo tours nationally and internationally, the HBCNA was fortunate to secure a date on

his busy schedule. Association attendees enjoyed listening and dancing to Bo's unique musical style that combined classic County, Blues and Rock. Door prize giveaways, scrumptious desserts, and visiting with neighbors were added bonuses during the 3 hour Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association event.

## Austin's Top 3 Upcoming Music Fests

*By Mandy Spivey and Jacob Lutz*

As the evenings in Austin get breezier and cooler, and as the heat of summer slowly fades into the back of our memory, it's time to get back into gear and ready for the next few months of music ahead.

Austin, already infamous for its live music scene, has in recent years dominated the music festival scene as well. Beyond the nationally recognized **South by Southwest (SXSW)** music festival, there are a handful of other music fests to keep you tapping your feet this Fall.

1. **Austin City Limits**- A longtime favorite of music lovers all over the state, ACL now spans two glorious weekends, this year from **October 4-6 and 11-13**. Zilker Park is overtaken as thousands of musicophiles flock to see some of the 130+ artists scheduled to play. Some of the highlights include Wilco, The Cure, and Neko Case. Make sure you bring a blanket and plenty of hand sanitizer if you plan on trekking through the whole two weekends.



2. **Fun Fun Fun Fest** - Six stages, one weekend, and dozens of performers. The fun officially starts on **Friday November 8th** at Auditorium Shores and runs until **Sunday the 10th** giving you enough time to give you just a little taste of everything. The festival consists of different genres of music and entertainment divided between the six stages and as it grows more popular the number of acts and shenanigans keeps multiplying. Some of the main features this year include: MGMT, Snoop Dogg, M.I.A., The Descendants and comedy duo Tenacious D.



3. **Austin Psych Fest** - This festival is technically in May of next year, but fans of the music probably already have it marked on their Grateful Dead calendars. **May 2-4** at Carson Creek Ranch is a weekend of pure psychedelia and mind-opening musical acts that will take you back and maybe even relive those foggy memories of the late 60s again (if that's what you're into.) New artists, a handful of oldies-but-goodies, and colorful multimedia displays promise a reality-altering good time.

## Stuffed Portobello Caps

By Liz Brunet

### Ingredients

- 8 oz package baby Portobello mushrooms
- 3 tbsp. butter or margarine
- ¼ cup finely chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup dry seasoned bread crumbs
- 2 tbsp. shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp. chopped marjoram leaves

### Directions

1. Preheat grill to medium direct heat.
2. Remove and chop stems, set caps aside.
3. Melt butter in small skillet over medium heat.
4. Add chopped stems, onions, and garlic to butter.
5. Cook and stir 2 minutes. Remove from heat.
6. Stir in bread-crumbs, cheese, and marjoram.
7. Spray rounded tops of mushroom caps with nonstick cooking spray.
8. Mound filling into mushroom caps, packing lightly.
9. Place caps in grill basket or directly on grill.
10. Grill covered 4 to 6 minutes or until lightly browned and hot.



## **Closing the Patio: Carlos n' Charlie's closes at Hudson Bend**

*By Mandy Spivey and Jacob Lutz*

It has finally happened. As the evaporating waters of Lake Travis dwindle down to levels close to 30%, there are more concrete signs that these low levels have finally reached a breaking point: Carlos n' Charlie's has been forced to close after 20 years of serving Hudson Bend.

After the 60-80% drop in business after several years of steadily shrinking waters, the first customers to go were their bread and butter, the very boaters and lake enthusiasts that filled the patio in busier years. It has been years since boaters have been able to dock their boat up to C n' C's, which co-owner Pete Clark noted as his final decision to put the plug from the frozen margarita machine. It was a cold day at Lake Travis.

But let's remember this lake favorite as it was in its heyday, when the lake was full, when the sun was hot, and the margaritas were as cold as the patio was breezy.

There was one final hurrah for the historic Lake Travis eatery. During Labor Day weekend, Carlos n' Charlie's opened their doors for the final act in music, dancing and drinking. Afterwards was an auc-





tion to see off the hundreds of signs and decor that had called that patio home for decades.

## **Chickens Out Back**

*By Liz Brunet*

About two years ago my husband and I decided we wanted to get chickens for eggs. Soon thereafter I dove into research about having chickens as “pets”, what are good laying breeds, and what breeds do well in Texas. I was overwhelmed with the amount of information I found. So many families in Austin have chickens for the same reason I wanted them!

I was able to reach out to a few local groups, ask my questions and make decisions about breeds. I found a man on craigslist that hand made coops also. I got myself a coop that would hold up to five adult chickens. We had decided against getting a rooster, simply because we did not want to disturb our neighbors.

I started out with three chickens, one golden sex link and two ameraucanas.



When I bought my three hens they were about 16 weeks old. I got my girls in March and they did not start laying till August. Since then the only time they have stopped laying was last winter when they were molting. That took about three weeks. The breeds I have lay green and brown eggs.

Owning chickens is a fairly easy gig. My girls are free range. I let them out in the morning and they pretty much do what they want

until they coop themselves when it gets dark. I give them chicken food about three times a week, and make sure they have water daily. I do however give them treats most every day. I give them table scraps, fruits, veggies, chips, bread, really anything that I have in my cabinets. I clean out their coop 1-2 times a month.

The hardest part of having them is keeping them safe from predators, especially in

our neighborhood. I

have lost three

chickens to predators.

I think from

either coyotes or

foxes. But in our

area you also have

to worry about

snakes, hawks,

owls, raccoons,

possums, and

neighbors dogs and cats.



I made the mistake of leaving the coop open one night and woke up to missing chickens. I have gone out in the early morning previously and have seen foxes and coyotes out near the coop. Now I make sure the coop is closed after it gets dark, and I do not open it till the sun is completely up.

I have gotten new chickens since my others have disappeared.

You can find really good people via craigslist to get your chickens from. Sometimes I think this is a better option then going to a store or breeder. I have had a few different breeds over the last two years including, sex links, ameraucanas, barred rock, Rhode

island reds, and production reds. All except for the production red have been excellent layers – usually one egg a day. My production red will lay about 2-3 eggs a week.

At some times I have more eggs than I know what to do with. At these times I will give the eggs to our friends and family. All of them agree that fresh eggs are 1000 times tastier than store bought eggs. For this reason our family will always have chickens as pets, and an extra bonus is they are pretty cute!!

### **Katharine Hepburn's Brownies**

*By Florence Brownell*



### **Ingredients & Directions**

1. Melt 2 squares unsweetened chocolate and 1/4 lb. sweet butter in a heavy sauce pan.
2. Remove from heat and stir in 1C sugar.
3. Add 2 eggs and 1/2 t vanilla extract.
4. Beat like mad.
5. Stir in 1/4C flour, 1/4t salt and 1C pecans or walnuts chopped into fairly large pieces.
6. Pour into an 8oz. square pan.
7. Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes.
8. Let cool awhile, cut into 1 1/2" squares and dive right in!

## Reptiles and Amphibians

*By Tom Struppeck*

Despite the drought, we still have lots of wildlife in Hudson Bend.

During the summer we see more reptiles and amphibians than we do during colder times of the year. That is because reptiles and amphibians are cold-blooded and cannot generate their own heat. When it is



cold, they need to seek shelter --- often they will bury themselves in the dirt--- in order to stay warm. When it is warm they come out and we see them more often.



One morning I found a hog-nosed snake near my front door. This creature looks formidable; in fact its head looks somewhat like a hooded cobra, but it is actually fairly harmless to humans. It is not so harmless

to toads. Hog-nosed snakes use their noses to dig for prey in the dirt. Toads dig themselves in to keep warm and to hide and hog-nosed snakes dig them up.

This bufo toad hopped out of the flower bed as I was catching the hog-nosed snake.



Some reptiles find it safer to hide in trees, animals that live in trees are called arboreal. Here is a picture of a spiny lizard that lives on an oak tree in my front yard.

Others live on the ground and protect themselves by having a solid shell, such as this Eastern Box turtle.



## **Oak Wilt Can Be Stopped if You Intervene in Time**

*By Tom Sciance*

Last year, oak wilt spread down Elm Street to Hopkins Drive. At first, we did not recognize the problem, and so did not begin treatment in time to save all of the beautiful live oaks on the property. When we did realize what the problem was, we were sure we would lose all of the trees because we had heard that treatment, while expensive, didn't work.



We consulted an arborist, who advised us to remove four trees that could not be saved and to bring in a specialist firm if we wished to try to save the remaining ones.



We were encouraged to have 11 trees treated, although we could not be certain that the treatment would work. We decided to go ahead and have the four doomed trees removed and treat the eleven that might be saved. We were pessimistic because we had heard that the treatments would be futile, but the arborist said that the techniques and dosages had been improved recently so there was a chance.



The consultant and head of the treatment firm returned this month to inspect the trees and see if additional treatment would be needed. We were pleased to find that all of the trees had recovered, and no more treatments are needed.

We were warned, though, because next door where a construction project is underway, some live oaks had been trimmed without painting the cut parts. The arborist said that we should watch those trees carefully because if they became sick we should have our trees treated again.



The big lesson for us was that in the future, we should watch for early signs and get expert advice before the disease had progressed very far. Oak wilt can be cured and the trees saved if treatment is started early enough. One key to prevent spread of the disease is to always paint the cut parts of live oaks as well as avoid the time of year when insects spread the disease. Because the disease also spreads underground and the roots of oaks join underground, treatment should include all nearby oaks that are not to be removed.



## Bulk Trash Drop Off

*By Lory Alexander*

Do you need to get rid of stuff that is in your way at home and you don't want to pay at the dump? If so, mark Saturday, October 12 on your calendar for a special trash day for association members.

**Bulk Trash Drop Off  
Saturday, October 12  
7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
16201 Pool Canyon Rd.**

There will be a dumpster bin available for trash collection on October 12 at 16201 Pool Canyon Rd. Please bring your items between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. The restrictions for what can be disposed are listed below.

This event is open to all association members. If you are not currently a member and would like to join for \$40 per household, you can pay at the dumpster. The membership fee is cheaper than a trip to the local dump, which cost me over \$60 the last time that I went!

Also, that morning we invite everyone to pick up trash in the neighborhood. Someone will pick up your bags and take to the dumpster. Please call 512-773-9625 before 10 to let us know the location of your bags.



## Trash Restrictions for Drop Off

- No Hazardous Waste (e.g. explosive, flammable, toxic or corrosive – propane tanks, gasoline, motor oils, paints, car batteries.)
- No Biohazardous Waste and No Biomedical Waste (e.g. needles, syringes, lancets.)
- No Dirt, Ash, Stone or Masonry Products (e.g. bricks or concrete).
- No Car or Truck Tires.
- No Refrigerators, Freezers or AC units due to Freon filled compressors.
- No full or partially filled wet paint cans. Hint, partially filled paint cans may be filled with kitty litter which will absorb the wet paint and if set in the sun for 48 hours will harden and no longer be considered hazardous and then may be placed in the dumpster.

Note, the can should be no more than a third full as the litter will expand as it absorbs the paint. If the can only has a small amount of paint, open and leave in the sun to dry, once dry it is no longer hazardous and may be placed in the dumpster.

## Lake Travis Really Is Variable Level!

*By Tom Sciance*

To put today's drought in perspective, here's an aerial photo of McIntosh Cove the way we like it. You can see a car parked at the top of our ramp. The lake level is around 680 ft.



A few years ago, the lake rose to 707 ft., and the six-foot fence at the bottom of our back yard was under water. This photo is of a family of geese swimming just outside our back door.



This photo was taken in September, 2013, with the lake level around 619 ft. To get this perspective, I was standing at a spot that would normally be under water. We're living on a gully, not a lake.



It's probably not a good time to sell waterfront homes. And there are other problems that crop up because of the drought. We used to have a permit from the LCRA to pump irrigation water from the lake. Our intake was at about 634 ft., limited by how far from the house we could run power to the pump. To add insult to injury, when the lake level dropped so that the pump was exposed, thieves stole the electrical conduit. So

we removed the pump from the cove and cancelled our contract.

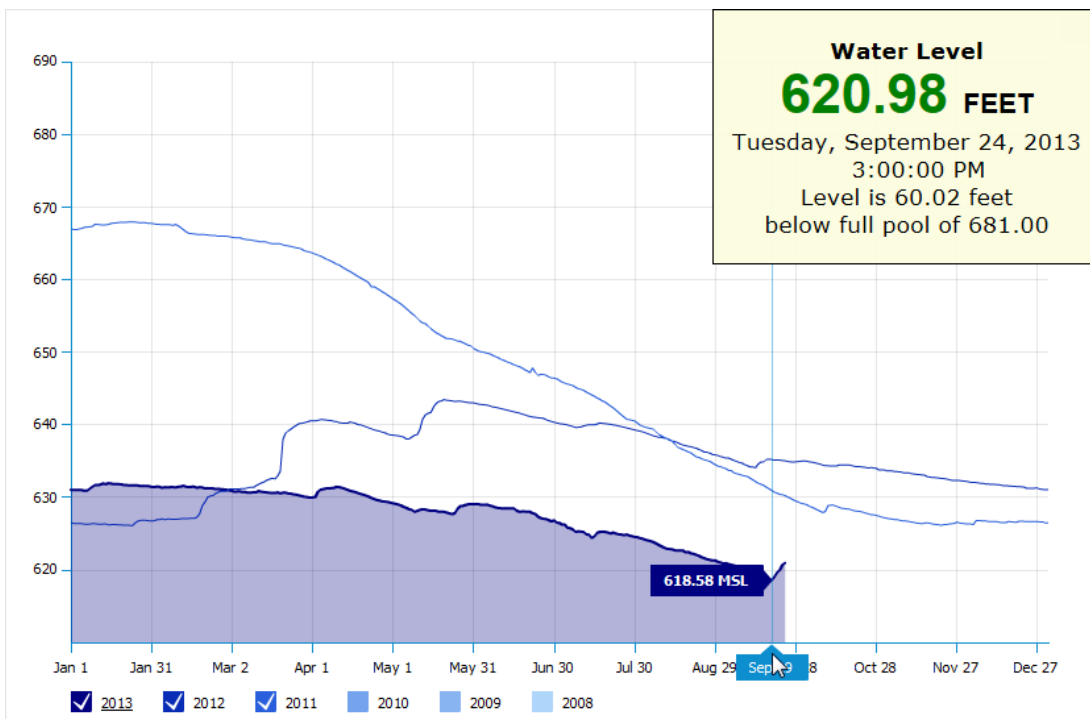
We then switched to our well, which is located at an elevation of about 717 ft. and is about 130 ft. deep. It worked fine until this month, when the available head dropped to the point that the well flow could not keep up with a hose. I purchased a “pump saver,” a device that shuts off the pump if it begins to run dry, since replacing a well pump costs several thousand dollars. We still can get a very low flow from the well but if the lake drops any more the well will certainly run completely dry. Our grass is long gone, of course, and now our flowers and veggies are going to get pretty thirsty.

About our only recourse is to encourage the LCRA to keep as much water in the lake as they can, and to pray for a hurricane to stall in the watershed area. The local lore has it that back in the ‘50’s the lake came up 50 ft. over a weekend. If only history does repeat itself!

### It’s Not All Bad News

*By John Chapman*

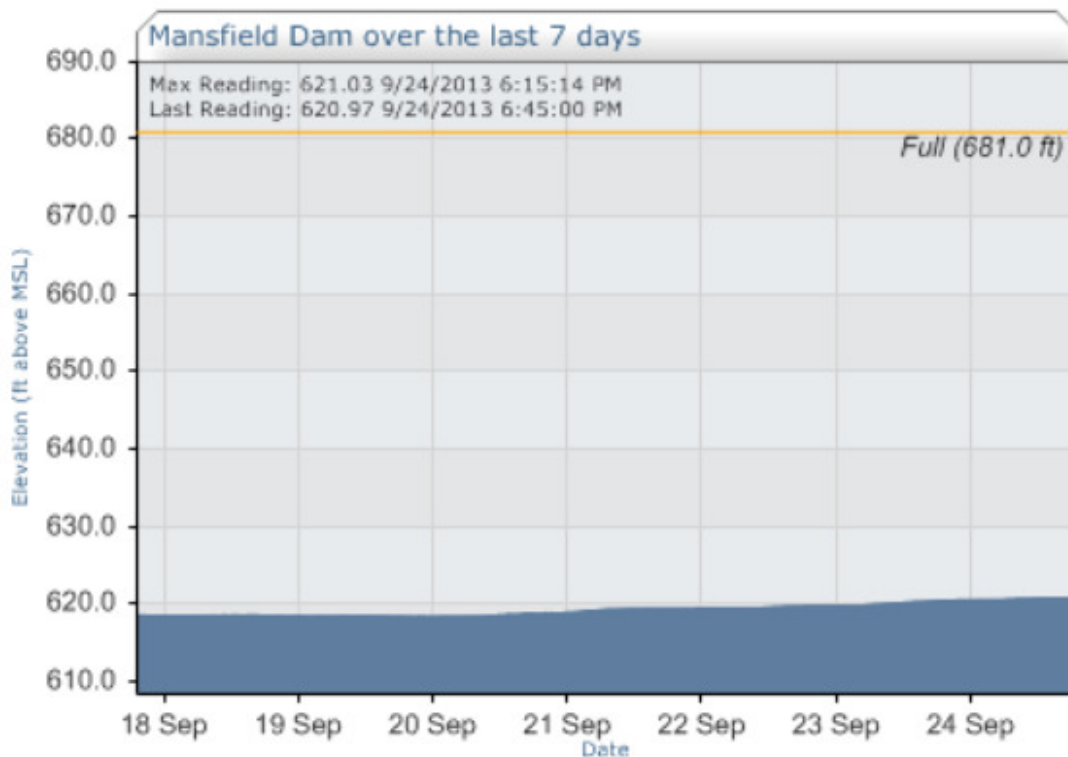
No one knows when the drought will finally end, but recent



rains has reversed the trend, at least for now. Before the rain the lake level had dropped to 618.58. At the time of the writing this article the lake has risen almost 2½ feet. More rain is forecast in several days.

There are several websites where the level of Lake Travis and other highland lakes can be checked at your convenience:

- <http://travis.uslakes.info/Level.asp>
- <http://floodstatus.lcra.org/>



## Going Native

*By Kyle Kelly*

Local resident (of 28 years!) Jack Matteson has a vision for the Hudson Bend community and it is to establish a flourishing native mountain laurel population in the area. In order to bring his vision to fruition, Jack has volunteered his time and some



of his many mountain laurels to enhance the site of our Hudson Bend Colony (HBC) marker. The HBC marker is located at the corner of Hudson

Bend Road and Pool Canyon Road and a picture of the marker is featured in each edition of the twice annual neighborhood association newsletter. Last year Jack planted and established a handful of mountain laurels on the north side of the marker plot. As you drive by the marker these days, you will notice some cedar/juniper tree trimming and removal activity on the east side of the marker plot in order to make room for Jack's mountain laurel donations to be planted this fall.

I love the look and sweet, grapey smell of the native mountain laurel but the cost of the plants at local nurseries can be quite steep. Two years ago I discovered our neighbor Jack, and at his home on Hudson Bend Road he has hun-



dreds of potted mountain laurels which he started from seeds. I have bought several mountain laurels from Jack as he offers deeply discounted pricing (just enough to recover his costs) in return for the purchaser's willingness to establish the plants in the local Hudson Bend neighborhood. Jack even guaranteed that if I followed his planting instructions and one of his mountain laurels did not make it through the tough climate conditions we are experiencing that he would replace the plant.



If you are interested in establishing some mountain laurels on your property, give Jack a call at (512) 695-7790, or come by to talk with him at the upcoming HBCNA Bulk Trash Drop Off event scheduled for morning of October 12th (see related article in this newsletter).





**Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association**

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