

Around the Bend

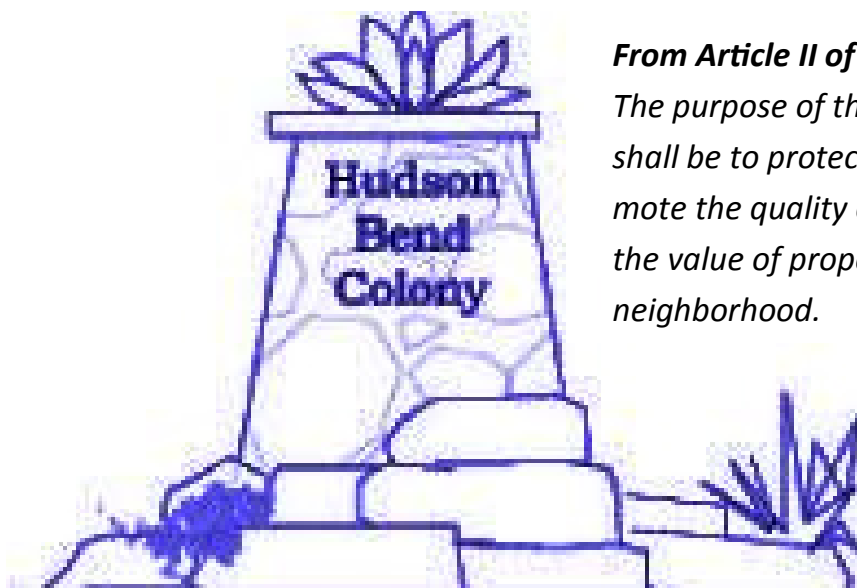
April, 2013

Vol. XXV, Issue 1

Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association

Inside of this Newsletter

President's Message - Annual Sprint Picnic.....	2
Wildfires.....	4
Tortilla Soup	7
The 2013 HBCNA Annual Picnic April 27 th	8
Bountiful Garden Zucchini Enchiladas.....	10
Veggie Gardening on Hudson Bend.....	12
Treasurer's Report	15
Meet the Nominees	16



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 Tom Struppeck

Annual Sprint Picnic

This issue of our newsletter announces the annual picnic, which serves as our annual meeting. I hope that you all will be able to attend.



This year's speaker will be **Jane Tillman**, and her talk is titled **Bird Watching in Central Texas**. Here is a short abstract:

Have you been meaning to add bird watching to your list of outdoor activities, but don't know where to begin? Austin's location straddling the Blackland Prairie to the east and the Edwards Plateau to the west, along the Colorado River corridor, provides a variety of habitats where you can find an abundance of bird life. Jane Tillman will give us tips on how to be better bird watchers, and highlight some of the best local spots, both urban and suburban, for finding both migratory and resident species.



Jane Tillman is the past chair of the Travis Audubon Urban Habitat Committee, a Capital Area Master Naturalist, and a National Wildlife Federation National Volunteer of the Year. She teaches beginning backyard birding classes for Travis

Audubon, and has been birding for 11 years. I am really looking forward to her presentation, which should be excellent.

We also have a special treat. A well-known local musician, **Bo Porter**, will be providing the musical portion of our program. Bo's first set starts at 6:00, so we will start the (very short) business meeting promptly at 5:00, so that Jane will have most of the hour to speak to us.

I am scheduled to rotate off as president soon. We'll vote for my replacement at the meeting. I hope that you will all join me in voting for Kyle Kelly to take my place.

Hudson Bend is part of the Austin extraterritorial jurisdiction (**ETJ**). The ETJ is the unincorporated land within five miles of Austin's full purpose city limit that is not within the city limits or ETJ of another city. It is the territory where Austin alone is authorized to annex land. So, the only municipality that could annex us is Austin and since they are not planning to do so, we can safely say that there are no plans to annex Hudson Bend. You can read more about the ETJ (www.austintexas.gov/department/planning-extraterritorial-jurisdiction).

Wildfires

By Kyle Adams

For many people, contact with wildfires meant watching fire-fighting scenes on television news reports. They were always in wooded, mountainous areas in far away places like the California hillsides or New Mexico mountains. We all watched in horror as beautiful forests and elegant homes were engulfed in flames as the residents stood around helpless in the face of such a raging monster; however, in 2011, that monster came close to our own



homes. On the far side of the city from Hudson Bend, the flames consumed a beautiful area of Bastrop County. It was terrifying but it still was not us. Then blazes sparked in Oak Hill, Spicewood and Steiner Ranch, much closer to our own homes. The threat began to seem more real and imminent.

What made those locales different from Hudson Bend? Nothing. We all had been blessed with fields of gorgeous vegetation, live oaks and cedar trees. We had all suffered the effects of a long-term drought which had transformed those fields of green into

dry, parched kindling. It had become the perfect fuel for a devastating wildfire.

We in Hudson Bend have so far been spared a wildfire in recent years, but it is important to be aware of the potential danger and implement proactive policies to minimize our own risks.

The world's leading fire experts have compiled research from their own experiments, models and data collection based on some of the country's worst wildland fire disasters. That research has been translated into principles and recommendations designed to create Firewise Communities.

Among their findings, it is not just the location of a home that determines its risk. The landscape around the home, called the "home ignition zone", is as important as the location itself. That zone is defined to be the home and its immediate surroundings up to 200 feet. Maintenance of that area should be a manageable task. It should be free of any fuel a fire could use.

The concept recommends the home and all attachments such as fences, decks and porches be constructed of non-flammable or, at least, fire retardant materials. This includes roofs, siding and windows, of course, but extends also to adjacent plantings and even mulch (which certainly can catch fire).

A zone at least 30 feet on all home sides should be well irrigated and provide space for fire fighters and their equipment. The next zone of 30-100 feet should also include low-flammability landscaping with low growing plants and trees well-pruned of dead limbs. Ideally, the tree's crowns should not be touching. All vegetation can become fuel for a fire and, therefore, should be kept minimal, yet can still be attractive.

Do not neglect areas where dead vegetation can accumulate. Clean roofs, gutters, patios and decks of dead leaves. Firewood supplies should be a reasonable distance from the home during months the fireplace is not in use. Doormats and furniture cushions should be brought inside when there is a threat of wildfire (they, too, can become fuel).

Buildings closer than 100 feet to each other can spread fire to one another. It is therefore important for communities to have evacuation plans in place which include at least two ways out. Streets and houses should have clearly marked street and numbers to facilitate the arrival of emergency responders.

Lake Travis area fire departments participate with the City of Austin Fire Department to unite and co-operate in instances of wildfire. Austin has a Wildfire Mitigation Department that has 12 brush-fire fire trucks strategically placed around the area for fast response. One or more of those units would be dispatched to assist in fire fighting in Hudson Bend. All officers have wildland personal protection equipment and have been trained to the National Wildfire Coordination Group's wildfire standards. Additionally, Austin has purchased a helicopter for exclusive use in wildfire containment. If a wildfire were ever to break out in Hudson Bend, we would have capable help arriving in very short order.

An awareness of the constant presence of potential wildfire danger should instill a determination to make our homes as resistant to fire as possible. Knowing there is adequate nearby help always prepared to assist us should alleviate some of our fears of a future wildfire in our own community.



Tortilla Soup

By Liz Brunet

Ingredients

- Four or five chicken breasts
- Two cans of corns
- Two cans of black beans (or you can do one of black beans and one of another kind)
- Two cans of diced or stewed tomatoes (Mexican style seasoning)
- Two cans of chicken broth
- Two packages of taco seasoning

Directions

1. Throw everything in the crock pot and let it cook on low for 8-9 hours
2. Shred chicken and put back in soup.
3. Serve with scallions and avocados on top and tortilla chips.

The 2013 Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting & Picnic is Saturday, April 27th.



By Kyle Kelly

As everyone can see, the bluebonnets are back, the days are warming, and spring is definitely in the air. This time of year also means that it is time for the Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association (HBCNA) Annual Picnic and Meeting. Our neighborhood picnic will be held this year on Saturday, April 27th, so mark your calendars now!

This year's location will be at the La Hacienda RV Resort (at 5220 Hudson Bend) in its Park Pavilion, which is the first building on the left coming in the main entrance.



Doors will open at 4:45 p.m. and this year all you need to bring is your favorite side dish, your annual dues of \$40, your favorite drink, and your family and friends because everything else will be provided by the HBCNA. Non-members and guest tickets for the picnic will be \$10 each at the door.

The annual HBCNA business meeting will start right at 5:00 p.m. Immediately following the meeting will be a presentation by Master Naturalist Jane Tillman on the many birds we see in our neighborhood. Jane teaches beginning backyard birding classes and has been birding for 11 years.



The HBCNA picnic dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. Back by popular demand will be mouth-watering BBQ meats provided by barbeque chef extraordinaire Ben Holder of Holdin' Smoke, a local favorite. The meats provided will be sausage, chicken, and brisket.

The meal will be accompanied by the tunes of another well-known, world-famous local artist Bo Porter. If you don't know Bo, you are in for a real Texas treat. Bo is an award-winning songwriter and TMA Male Vocalist nominee. His unique delivery style is a combination



of classic Country, Blues, and Rock. Bo and his band will play from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. so plan to have a good time visiting and getting to know your neighbors, eating, and dancing on the evening of Saturday, April 27th !

Bountiful Garden Zucchini Enchiladas

By Liz Brunet

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 cups diced zucchini
- 1/4 cup canned diced green chiles
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter

- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup canned diced green chiles
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 8 (8 inch) flour tortillas
- 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 1/2 cups chopped tomatoes

Directions

1. Preheat an oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the onion and garlic in the oil until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in zucchini, 1/4 cup diced chiles, 1 teaspoon chili powder, and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper. Cook until softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove zucchini mixture from skillet and reserve.
2. Melt butter in the skillet over medium low heat. Stir in flour, salt, remaining 1 teaspoon chili powder, and 1/8 teaspoon pepper. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Pour in milk; whisk until thickened, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in the remaining 1/4 cup of diced chiles and 1 cup of Monterey Jack cheese.
3. Stir 1/2 cup of cheese sauce into the zucchini mixture. Spoon 1/3 cup squash mixture down the center of each tortilla; roll up. Place filled tortillas in prepared baking dish, pour remaining cheese sauce over. Cover and bake in preheated oven until hot, about 25 minutes. Remove from oven; sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup Monterey Jack cheese and the chopped tomatoes.

Veggie Gardening on Hudson Bend

By Tom Sciance

Our daughter once exclaimed, “Thank God for the hard way!” “Why do you say that?” I asked. “Because in this family that’s the only way anyone can learn anything!” That definitely applies to my efforts to grow veggies. I thought to entitle this article “Container Gardening,” but then realized that in order to grow anything much around here you have to have some kind of container—flower beds, raised beds, buckets, pots—something. So while I make no claim to be a “Master Gardener,” I am a treasure trove of things that didn’t work well and some that did better.



This raised bed contains cool weather plants—collards, onions and sugar snap peas—planted in January. You can see from the bare ground beyond why some kind of container is needed. The main lesson I’ve learned with this kind of bed is to add a lot of sand and other loose material. At first I used typical garden soil and found that it packs too tightly and doesn’t drain well. The light wire around the bed keeps out deer and dogs, and the heavy grid is a trellis for the peas.



A current fad is to put a lot of plants into a small area, but some plants like tomatoes seem to like more space and better air circulation. As an experiment, I planted one “Mighty ‘Mato,” which is grafted to a hardier rootstock. This seems like overkill to me, but I thought I’d try one. It has to be planted level so the graft remains above ground, unlike a

typical tomato which is planted deeply with some of the lower leaves stripped off. I also planted one grafted eggplant.

Our dog Georgia likes to dig up young plants, so anything we want to remain alive has to be protected. Because tomatoes like to have support, these are surrounded by a wire grid that will later serve to support the



tomatoes. Earthboxes are somewhat misnamed because you do not fill them with earth. They depend upon wicking up from a reservoir that is filled through the black tube. When the reservoir is full, water drains out the bottom. The medium used to fill the box is largely Sphagnum moss and vermiculite. Dolomitic lime is add-

ed and fertilizer placed in a trench about two inches deep. The lime is especially important for tomatoes to avoid blossom end rot. It amazed me to discover how much water is transpired by plants. In the hot part of our summer, an Earthbox may require 3 gallons per day of water. These boxes have the recommended 2 tomato plants. For peppers, they recommend 6 but I think four works better.

Again, we have to protect everything from our K9 pest. I've found that it is better to grow some things where it is easiest to get at them. Okra has beautiful yellow flowers and blooms all summer, so this bed has been planted with two rows of tall plus a front row



of dwarf okra. Okra should be picked when the pods are small, and because the plants are so prolific it is desirable to pick it every day. It's also convenient to have lettuce, radishes and the like growing nearby so it's handy to pick them when needed. This shows pots containing lettuce and eggplants, Earthboxes containing melons and peppers, and although not visible there are trays with radishes and the like. You can use any kind of container; one of ours is an old baby bath. It also seems effective to make sure the medium in any container is relatively loose to avoid packing and poor drainage.

I enjoy raising veggies from seed, but I tend to lose a lot during the hardening-off process. It's really no problem, though—seed is cheap and if the worst happens the nurseries are full of replacements. Happy Gardening!



Treasurer's Report

By Tom Sciance, Treasurer

HBCNA has had a good year financially. The bank balance at the end of 2012 was \$5,125.90 as compared with \$4,550 at the end of 2011. The Board of Directors approved additional expense for the 2013 annual meeting because we have had no other major projects and found the opportunity to secure excellent food and music at a reasonable price. The proposed budget below extends through the end of 2013. It includes expenses for the fall 2012 newsletter which has yet to be billed. The new Board of Directors will need to decide how much to allocate for the 2014 annual meeting based on then-current membership and our experience with this year's meeting.

Income:

- Dues \$1,440
- Misc. \$60
- Total \$1,500

Expenses:

- Newsletter (3) \$500
- 2013 Annual Meeting \$1,300
- Landscape \$300
- Total \$2,100

Net Reduction in EOY Balance: \$600

Meet the Nominees

<i>Nominations to the 2013-2014 Board of Directors</i>	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>
Kyle Kelly	President
John Chapman	Vice-President
Lory Alexander	Secretary
Tom Sciance	Treasurer
Elizabeth Brunet	Director
Steve Hudson	Director
Tom Struppeck	Director
Kyle Adams	Director
To be Nominated	Director

Kyle Kelly

Kyle has served on the HBCNA Board of Directors for two years. She and her partner Kenny Holder moved to Pool Canyon Road in mid-2010. She wanted to be closer to the water and he wanted to own a home on a parcel of land bigger than a postage stamp but with a reasonable commute into Austin. Kyle has been an active board member during her tenure. She has contributed several articles to the HBCNA newsletters, hosted board meetings, lined up last year's annual picnic speaker and large shade canopy, and lined up this year's picnic location and music. Kyle will continue to serve on the Board of Directors and she is willing to serve as the Board President for the next two years if the HBCNA membership is in agreement.

Tom Struppeck

Tom and Helena live on Pool Canyon Cove. Tom joined the board two years ago and has been a valuable resource for information re-

garding the wildlife that is present, but not often recognized, on our peninsula...and in our very back yards. He served on the board as director for two years and last year was elected President.

John Chapman

John attended U.T. Austin starting in 1984. After college, the family moved to Oregon and then to Bellaire, Texas. They returned to live in Hudson Bend in 2006. Ginger and John live in Hudson Bend for many of the benefits of living by one of the prettiest lakes in Texas, Lake Travis. John served on the board for many years. Several years ago before the HBCNA undertook the work to design a web presence, John registered (secured) the URL name for the neighborhood association www.hbcna.com. As Vice President, John produces the publication of Around the Bend.



Lory Alexander

Lory and Archie Alexander live on Forest Way. Lory's family is a long-time resident of Hudson Bend, having bought property in 1963. She is familiar with the evolution and historic developments of our community. She has served on the board as President, Secretary

and Director for many years and is offering to continue to serve as Secretary.

Tom Science

Anita and Tom moved here from Delaware in 1997 and live on Forest Way. They bought the lot back in the '80's and decided to build on it after Tom retired from DuPont. He created Neighborhood Directory and has published this newsletter for several years. Tom says, "We joined the association as soon as we bought the lot, long before we moved here". He served on the board as President and VP for several years and now serves as Treasurer. Anita's hobby is growing flowers, shrubs and trees. She is especially proud of her 10 Madrones and other specimen trees. Tom teaches one course at UT each fall.



Elizabeth Brunet

Elizabeth and Manuel live on Pool Canyon Cove. The board had long been gathering information and discussing developing a web presence. Elizabeth took the information, designed and developed

the content of our website (www.hbcna.com). Now in addition to publishing our newsletters on paper, the newsletter is available via the website. She has served on the board as Director for four years and has offered to continue.

Steve Hudson

Connie and Steve Hudson live on Hopkins Drive. Steve has served on the board for many years as Director and Treasurer. As Treasurer he has kept the board continually informed of financial activities transacted on behalf of the HBCNA. He has also been instrumental in organizing many of the merchandising activities (i.e. ball caps and T-shirts) for the board. He has offered to continue on the Board as a Director.



One Director Position is Open

The Board sincerely thanks Patricia King Sigg for serving as a Director for many years, She and her husband Thomas have moved away from our community and will be missed by all. We wish them the best. We would like to hear from any member or prospective member who would be willing to serve. It's a good chance to get to know your neighbors and help improve the quality of life in our neighborhood.



Hudson Bend Colony Neighborhood Association

16304 Lakeshore Dr. E

Austin, TX 78734