



The Bird's Eye View

May, 2010 Volume 2, Issue 3, Page 1



776 E. Torrey St.
New Braunfels, TX

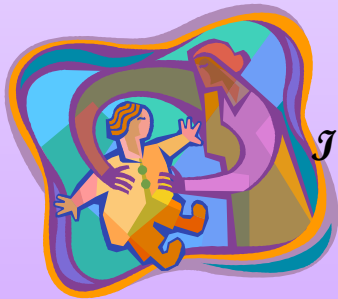
RavenStar Outdoor Education

www.ravenstaroutdoors.org

830-626-1776
info@ravenstaroutdoors.org

Calling All Young Naturalists!

RavenStar Summer Science Day Camps are a great way for kids to enjoy a summer of learning, nature and fun. Join us as we uncover the mysteries of nocturnal adaptations, travel to the bygone days of Bison and tall grass prairies, explore the amazing geology of central Texas and much more. For more information email us at camp@ravenstaroutdoors.org or call 830-626-1776. We hope to see you this summer in the Park!



Happy Mother's Day!

I love my mother as the trees love water and sunshine - she helps me grow, prosper, and reach great heights. ~ Terri Guillemets

Looking for something special to do?

How about surprising your mom, grandma, sister or auntie with a picnic in the park. Picnics are a fun way to enjoy meals together without the distraction of phones, television or computers. Need some recipes? Visit

www.images.allrecipes.com/site/allrecipes/pdfs/2009/summerpicnics.pdf for 5 great picnic menus, and remember to go green with these eco-friendly tips.

www.care2.com/greenliving/eco-friendly-picnics.html



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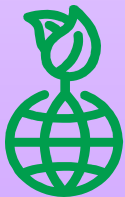
Wednesday Park-Schooling

May 5th - The Amazing Rain Machine and Land Stewardship. Explore the water cycle, discover the interaction between rain, soil, and plants and learn about how our green friends save the soil and keep our aquifer full.

May 19th - Archaeology Dig! Explore the past as we uncover artifacts in our Torrey park dig pit, then, get your thinking caps on to write a scientific report about our finds. Programs begin at 10:00 am and meet at Torrey Park.

Did you know...

Hikers and cyclists not only travel with less impact than ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles,) but also have greater access to undisturbed natural areas. Taking your family for a hike or bike ride is a great way to exercise your body, spend time together and observe native wildlife and plant Communities. Texas boasts a variety of beautiful hike and bike trails to offer thrill seekers and nature lovers an up close and personal view of the wilder side of Texas. To learn more about trails in your area, visit these sites and remember, travel safely!



www.austinhikeandbike.com/

www.localhikes.com/MSA/MSA_7240.asp

www.texasoutside.com/hiking.htm

www.texas-travel.suite101.com/article.cfm/dogfriendly_texas_hikes

Saturday's in the Park

Join us May 22nd for an amazing journey with Doc Edwards and the Edwards Aquifer Authority as we learn more about this vital natural resource and ways you can keep it healthy. Program begins at 10:00 am and meets at Torrey Park.

Call or email to learn more. 830-626-1776 info@ravenstaroutdoors.org

*Me thinks that the moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow.
~ Henry David Thoreau*



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“LIFE IS LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE. TO KEEP YOUR BALANCE YOU MUST KEEP MOVING,” ~ALBERT EINSTEIN

MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH!

For nearly 150 years, the bicycle has been the beloved sidekick of health enthusiasts, adventure seekers and kids of all ages. The modern day bicycle, with pedals, inflatable tires and multispeed transmission is not the result of a single invention, but rather an evolution in mechanics and ingenuity. Although there are many unverifiable claims about the lineage of the bicycle, the accreditation for modern design goes to Karl von Drais' *Laufmaschine* (German for “running machine”) patented in 1818. The pedal-free *Laufmaschine*, commonly called dandy horse or hobby horse, was the first commercially successful machine of its kind and was wildly popular in Germany, France and England. This new craze, an attractive commodity to metal workers and cartwrights looking for a piece of the invention pie, bore many variations, including Denis Johnson's *Velocipede* which, with improved shape and sturdier frame, allowed for larger tires and greater speed without sacrificing comfort and safety. Throughout subsequent decades, the ancestral bicycles acquired pedals, developed into various shapes and sizes and witnessed the births of short-lived cousins such as the four-wheeled *Quadracycle* and *Royal Salvo Tricycle*, however, it was not until 1885 when the next big breakthrough in bicycle engineering came forth with John Kemp Starley's *Rover*. The *Rover*, which featured front wheel steering, equally-sized tires and a rear wheel chain drive, was the bicycle of choice for safety conscious citizens and was further improved in 1888 with John Dunlop's introduction of the pneumatic (air-filled) tire. Since its humble beginnings, the bicycle has seen many designs, undergone numerous successes and failures, and is even attributed with forwarding the efforts of suffragists with newfound mobility and freedom. Undoubtedly, the bicycle, in all its forms and fashions, has forged a permanent place into the hearts and minds of cyclists and forever changed the face of transportation.



Bike to Work Day May 21st 2010

Riding your bicycle to work, school or just around the block is a great way to stay fit, conserve precious resources and reduce CO₂ emissions. Interested in learning more, visit www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth/events.php to find events in your area and enjoy the ride!



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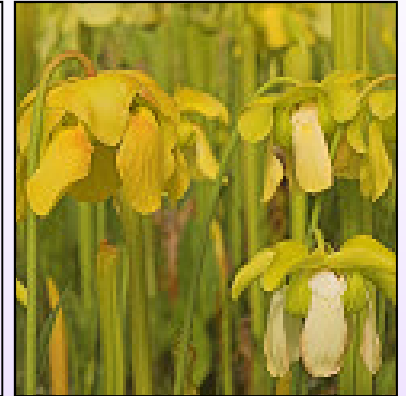
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Native Highlight

Texas is home to fifteen species of carnivorous plants, the largest of which is *Sarracenia alata*, otherwise known as the Pale Pitcher Plant or Pale Trumpet. Like all members of this genus, the beautiful and inviting *S. alata* lures hungry insects to the slippery edge of the “pitcher” and waits for their misfortunate slip. Once inside the plant’s tube or bladder, insects and other invertebrates are unable to climb their way to freedom and eventually drown and dissolve in a pool of digestive enzymes.



Celebrate!

At the 7th Annual Wein & Saengerfest in historic downtown New Braunfels Saturday, May 1st, Noon to 10:00 pm. It’s guaranteed to be a wine tasting, grape stomping good time. This year’s theme is *Green Living*, so grab a glass and join RavenStar to learn more about simple things you can do to protect the planet and maybe even save a little green too!



MAY 21ST IS FROGFEST

4:00 pm to 6:30 pm at area 16 in Landa Park and RavenStar will be there! This fun children’s event features games, music, food and the signature “frog race” finale. Admission is free, all proceeds support Connections of New Braunfels and the New Braunfels Senior Center.

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?

Join the RavenStar team! We are currently looking for volunteer program instructors, grant writers, event coordinators and summer camp staff. Call or email to learn more. 830-626-1776, director@ravenstaroutdoors.org.