

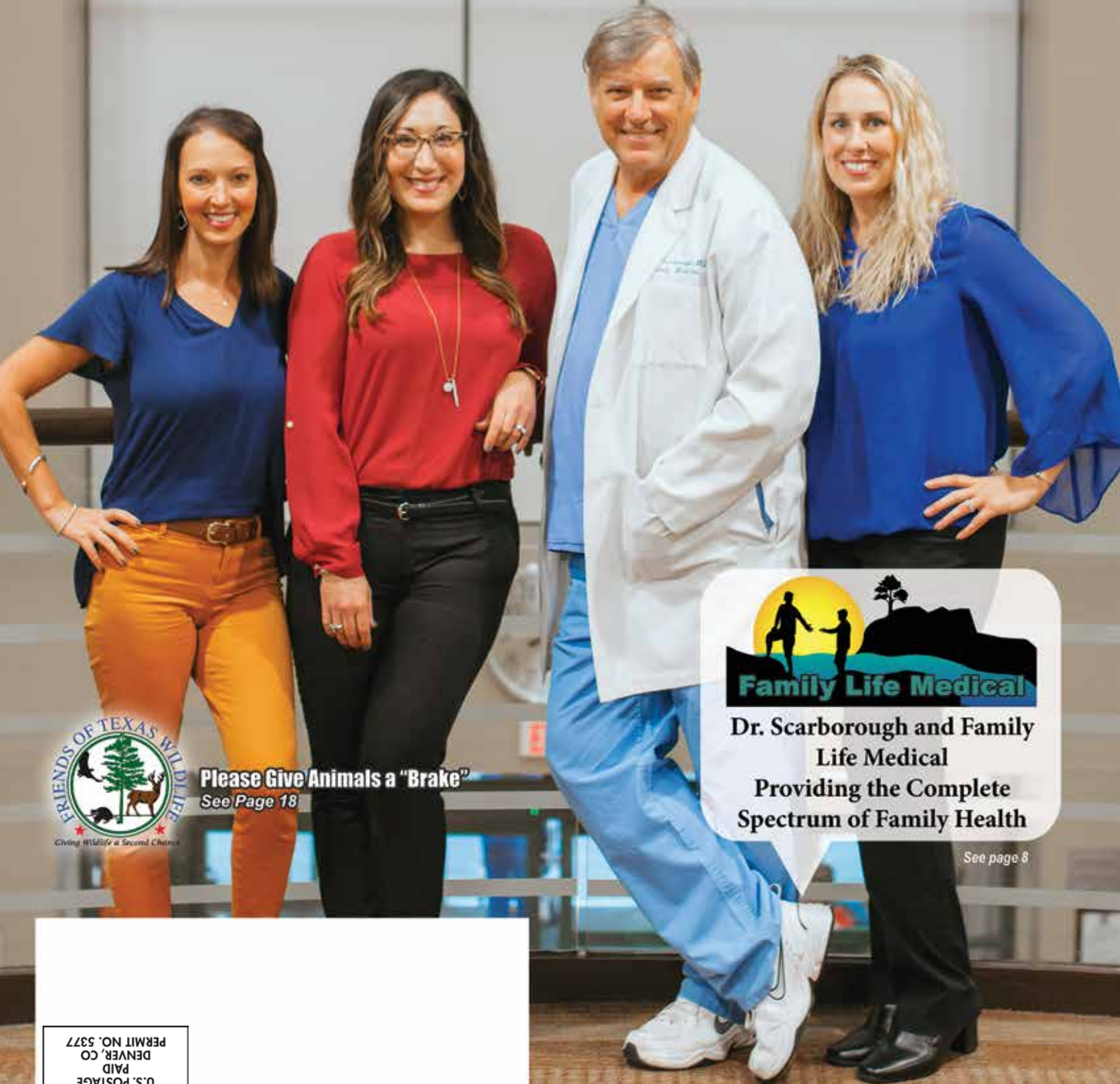
# Dock Line



Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

December 2019



**Please Give Animals a "Brake"**

See Page 18



**Dr. Scarborough and Family  
Life Medical**

**Providing the Complete  
Spectrum of Family Health**

See page 8

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The weather is great they said. We get to fly on a big plane they said. You'll meet new doggie friends they said. What were they talking about??? I walk everywhere I go, it's hot and the other doggie friends are nuts! Oh, and where is the other side of the lake? I look out and all I see is water - lots of water, like never ending water. They say it's an ocean. Ocean! It's water that's salty and I can't touch the bottom, where I get splashed all the time and there is no one around doing it? Looks like some sort of monster that wants my head underwater all the time. They can keep it. Oh, and sand. Where did they get it all? How do they get so much of it in one place? Looks like I have a lot to learn, but I think I like Texas better, just saying...

OK Dock Line Readers. I hope you have noticed our new website? We have gotten lots of compliments about it and we still have a lot of work to do, but it is going to be amazing! Once our phone app becomes available it will be even better. We have been told that print is dead. Well, after 3 years of hard work with many smart people Dock Line Magazine will not only have a digital side that will do things that I can only dream of, we will be printing more magazines than ever before. 2020 will be an amazing year for both our readers and also our advertisers. I can't give all our secrets away but we will have announcements as each phase is in place. Currently we have video production, SEO, web design, more articles and more areas Dock Line Magazine will be servicing. In other words, Dock Line Magazine is growing even faster than we all expected. With our unique formula, our advertisers will see an increase in business and more opportunities to reach their potential customers. That's about all I can say at this time but watch for our announcements as each phase is added. Thank you Dock Line Readers, contributors and advertisers for the last 20 years of supporting us. Looking forward we know you will enjoy Dock Line Magazine even more!

Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends!!! I know I will...

**GT2** 

# Dock Line Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

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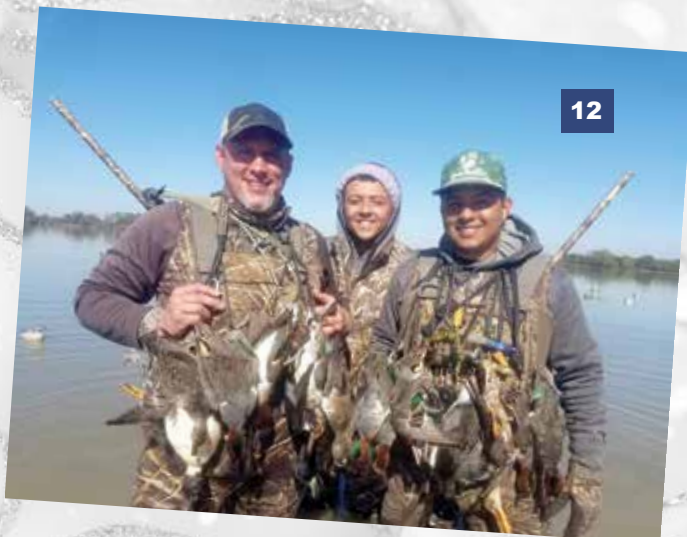
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# Dock Line Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

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### Christmas Fair & Winter in the Park

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Where: 1203 University Ave., Huntsville, TX 77340

Admission: Free

There will be children's arts & crafts, hot cocoa, art and craft vendors, bounce houses, letters to and pictures with Santa, "Selfie" stations, Christmas Karaoke and even more holiday festivities! For more information call 936-291-5920.

### 2nd Annual Christmas in Our Town - An Onalaska Celebration

When: December 7, 2019

Time: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Onalaska Park/Garland Pavilion, 600 Onalaska Loop, Onalaska, TX 77360

This FREE Annual Celebration includes a Reindeer Dash 5K Fun Run/Walk, 3K Fun Run/Walk, and the Onalaska Trade Days A Walk In The Park A Christmas Wonderland setting in the park. You can walk down Candy Cane Lane, Hot Chocolate Way and Rudolph Rd. Along the path you can enjoy the wonderful displays and gather

up some goodies along the route! Snow Sledding, Bounce House, Games, Face Painting, Christmas Caroling, Food Trucks, Singing and A Reading of the Christmas Story presented by our local churches. Visit with Santa and enter the Great Bicycle Give Away (MUST be present to win). For more information call Tammy Seader at 936-646-5000.

### Dickens on the Square 2019

When: December 14, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Old Town Theatre, 1023 12th St., Huntsville, TX 77340

Admission: Free

It all starts the second Saturday in December with the 2nd Annual Dickens on the Square - bigger and better this year and FREE to the public. We'll have Christmas caroling, cookies and drinks, great street entertainment and MORE!

### Livingston Trade Days

When: December 14 - 15, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sunday

Where: Pedigo Park, 925 US Highway 59 Bypass North, Livingston, TX

Admission: FREE admission and parking  
Open year-round on the weekend before the third Monday of each month. Livingston Trade Days is held in beautiful Pedigo Park surrounded by picturesque East Texas Pines. Two large covered pavilions and a multitude of open-air lots host a wide variety of local food, arts & crafts, hunting accesso-

ries, tools, collectibles, unique clothing, jewelry, shabby chic, antiques, and so much more. Bring your family and enjoy a day in the park. There's something for everyone! For more information on this event, contact Lynn Riley or Juan Parra at 877-824-6653, email [livingstontradedays@livingston.net](mailto:livingstontradedays@livingston.net) or visit [www.cityoflivingston-tx.com/tradedays](http://www.cityoflivingston-tx.com/tradedays). ♦



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# Dr. Scarborough and Family Life Medical Providing the Complete Spectrum of Family Health

*By: Margie Taylor*







*We have a knowledgeable, friendly, and caring team of Physicians Assistants and Nurse Practitioners.*

This year, Dr. Kyle Scarborough is celebrating his 25th anniversary as a physician in the Lake Conroe area.

He practiced in Richmond Texas after completing his Family Practice residence. In 1993 he was given an opportunity to join the Sadler Clinic. He met with the co-founders of the clinic, Dr. Dean Sadler, Dr. Irv Watson, and Dr. Walter Wilkerson.

"I liked the group and loved the area, so my wife and I decided to make the Conroe area our home."

The mission of Family life Medical is to provide comprehensive primary medical care to family members of all ages.

Patients today face a bewildering array of insurance options, regulations, escalating premiums, and alternatives to traditional medicine. The internet also provides an enormous amount of medical information but it is getting harder to discern objective information from a sales pitch.

Patients need a doctor who will also be their advocate and advisor.

"I try to provide health care and education to my patients, and objective counsel regarding treatment options that are in their best interest."

The Family Life Medical clinic offers care for the entire family, including wellness exams, diabetes care, hypertension treatment, geriatric care, well woman exam, school physicals, and pre-ops and hospital follow ups. In addition to general medical care, Dr. Scarborough's practice provides a wide range of dermatology services, including removal of skin lesions and biopsies when appropriate.

Dr. Scarborough recognizes the need to keep up with the changing demands of medical care as well as high patient expectations.

"I have evolved my practice to be more comprehensive, providing requested services that patients want and expect including an updated website for patients to access their labs, make appointments, or get health records through a secured patient portal", shared Dr. Scarborough.



*Friendly faces greet you and make you feel comfortable.*

*Continued on page 10 ➡*





*Yearly wellness exams are a great way for a patient and our staff to form a strong connection that helps with total health and wellness.*



*Schedule your appointment today!*

"We have also expanded our clinic to include skin care, facial rejuvenation, tattoo removal, and Dysport treatment."

Dr. Scarborough got his start in multi-specialty and hospital groups. But he is relishing his role as an independent physician and local business owner.

"As an independent provider of health care, I am not required to support any other medical provider, specialist, or network of treatment. I have great support staff and well-established medical specialists in the community I recommend. The best compliment is overhearing patients bragging on our staff saying that our practice is welcoming and feels like a family community of support."

Dr. Scarborough says that many new patients come to after seeing his name in The Dock Line or in The Courier, where he writes a weekly column "What's Going Around", focusing on current health topics.

"The majority of my new patients, though, come from word of mouth referrals from family, friends, and co-workers. I always try to honor those recommendations."

When asked about any retirement plans, Dr. Scarborough says "I'm not going away anytime soon!" He and his staff are making plans to expand their facility and range of services in the near future.

Learn more about Family Life Medical by visiting their website [www.FamilyLifeMedical.com](http://www.FamilyLifeMedical.com) or call (936) 760-9900. The clinic is located at 508 Medical Center Blvd. in Conroe. Open Monday through Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday. ♦



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# FISHING REPORT

By: David Scott Cox

**Duck Hunting FORECAST** – The Jungle area of Lake Livingston is known for Mallard and Wood Duck Hunting along with other species of Puddle Ducks. The Jungle is one of the places to be in December if you are looking for a trophy Mallard or Wood Duck to mount. The Jungle area is boat access only being north of the 190 bridge and west of White Rock creek. The area is public hunting so get there early. Often it is worth the effort. Check with the Trinity River Authority for rules and regulations for hunting here. Water levels can fluctuate with current conditions. The Jungle can be hard on equipment and mankind. Concealment is imperative for success with late season Mallards. Smaller decoy spreads and a minimal amount of calling works best in December. Always respect other hunters and good luck duck hunting Lake Livingston.

**BANK ACCESS:** Highway 356 to Outback Marina or Charlie's boat ramp.



David Scott Cox  
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[www.palmettoguideservice.com](http://www.palmettoguideservice.com)

Lake Livingston consists of 90,000 surface acres of water and over 450 miles of shoreline.

## SPECIES REPORT:

**Black Bass {largemouth}** – Some nice fish are being caught now on "Charlie's Gecko" in June Bug Texas rigged fished around boathouses in Kickapoo and Sandy Creeks. Throw deep running crank baits off the rocky points in Bethy Creek.

**Catfish** – Good numbers of big Blue Cats being caught. Drift fresh dead shad near the old river channel. Run trot lines mid lake area near the river channel. Blue Cats are being caught on popping corks baited with fresh shad fished in the standing dead trees in Harmon Creek. Big Ops are taking live perch on trot lines in the upper river channel.

**Crappie** – Crappie fishing has been good with some good numbers of fishing being caught on minnows in the boathouses and in the brush up Kickapoo Creek. Fish live minnows and jigs in big Caney if the water is tea color here.

**White Bass** – Slow in the lower lake areas jigging "Super D Slabs" and Tsunami 1 oz. Zombie Eyes off humps 11-17'. Look for White Bass to make their move into northern creeks to spawn with warming weather.

**Striper** – Occasional Stripers are being caught fishing the humps for Whites. ♦



Normal Lake Level

131.0'

Current Lake Level

131.06'

Current Lake Level at  
Riverside

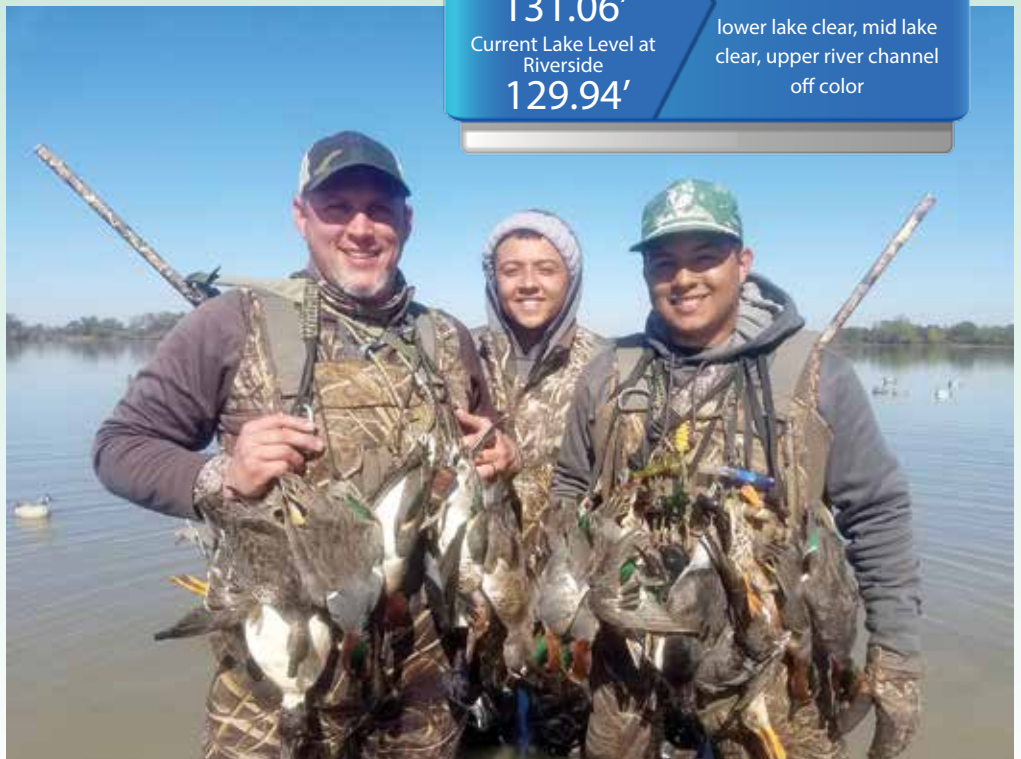
129.94'

Water Temperature

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Release - 1,250 cfs

lower lake clear, mid lake  
clear, upper river channel  
off color





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# Back to Health

By: Tony W. DeRamus, DC, CCSP



## What Does Health Mean To You And Your Family?

The current view of health holds that if we have symptoms, we are sick and if we are without symptoms then we are healthy. So much of modern health care is geared toward getting rid of symptoms. Some of the sickest people are symptom free. They just don't feel anything. Their bodies are so consumed with toxins, stress and injury (emotional and physical) that they have shut down. So lack of symptoms does not necessarily prove to be

gets hot as the body increases the circulation to repair and heal the injured tissue. The runny nose we get at the change of seasons is the body sluffing off the old respiratory lining, much like the trees sluff off their leaves and animals sluff off winter coats.

Every symptom our body gives us is a message. The body can only speak to us in two ways, pain or pleasure, discomfort or comfort, ease or dis-ease. When symptoms occur, when our body is



a healthy individual. Conversely, a person with symptoms is not necessarily "sick."

Many of the symptoms people experience are actually signs that the body is healing and abating those symptoms can interfere with the healing process. For example, a fever is the body's first line of defense against infection. The temperature goes up, which increases the body's activity and signals the immune system to essentially "turn on." When we take something to lower the temperature it compromises the body's natural healing response.

When we ingest something that the body considers to be toxic, nausea and diarrhea are healthy responses. When a joint is injured, the body, along with a host of inflammatory chemicals, gives us pain to let us know to be careful, to avoid using it and re-injuring it. It swells to provide a natural splint to the area to protect the injured joint and

trying its best to communicate with us, do we listen to what it is trying to say? Or, do we just try to stop the symptoms?

For example, antibiotics remain the most popular medical treatment for an earache, with doctors reportedly writing 15 million prescriptions per year in the United States alone. It is estimated that at least half of the prescriptions are unnecessary and ineffective for helping this problem. To add to that, most ear infections are vi-

ral in nature so antibiotics, in many cases, will not be effective in eradicating the problem. Quieting the symptoms will most likely lead to a recurrence of the symptoms later on. It has been shown that 80 percent of people with ear infections or earaches get better without antibiotics within 48 to 72 hours.

Due to the widespread overuse of antibiotics, drug-resistant germs have been reproducing rapidly, constantly evolving new levels of drug resistance. For over a decade our health leaders have been sounding the alarm to doctors to stop writing so many prescriptions for antibiotics because of growing drug resistance as well as serious health risks to the user.

As these statistics are becoming better known, people are seeking alternative treatment to keep themselves as well as their family healthy. Chiropractic is becoming more and more the popular choice.

Chiropractic is not the diagnosis or treatment of any condition or disease. The focus of chiropractic is to reduce stress to your nervous system so your whole body can function better. At Sandstone Chiropractic, we use techniques designed for adults and children that are very gentle, effective and safe.

It's important to note that chiropractors are not opposed to antibiotics when necessary, but the chiropractic profession acknowledges that over usage is prevalent in our country and that the habits of some prescribing doctors may not have caught up with the latest research, or simply give-in to the persistent demands of uninformed parents.

Health is not the absence of symptoms, as sickness is not the presence of symptoms. Health is a condition of wholeness in which all of your organs are functioning 100%. Symptomatic or not, chiropractic care offers your body the best possibilities for better function, therefore better health.

For the overall wellness of you and your family, participate in all decisions when it comes to the usage of antibiotics and seek other non-invasive forms of care. Remember, it's your body and you have a choice. Most importantly, initiate healthy lifestyle choices for your family and include regular chiropractic care as part of your family's goal towards wellness. ♦







# Huntsville Pets Helping People

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## Inside Games With Your Pets

*By: Marilyn Meshell*

While we are still enjoying many sunny mild days, we are seeing more blustery cooler days. There will be times when we return home from work or activities and it may be cold, dark, rainy, or all three at the same time. We may not want to take the dog walking. So what are we to do? Dogs need to work off some energy. They like to check out the neighborhood and they want to spend time with us too. Obviously, we could just grumble and go for a walk but there are other ways to get exercise and spend time with our fuzzy family members that are fun and allow us to remain inside, dry, and comfortable. I am talking about games that we can play with a dog inside a house or apartment.

Some of the games require our fuzzy friends to have a few basic obedience skills such as sit and stay. If those skills are lacking, that is a good place to start. With some patience, lots of praise, plenty of practice, and an abundance of really good treats, the sit and stay skills can be learned in a few days. There are a variety of options for learning obedience skills such as using internet articles, checking out library books, viewing YouTube videos, or attending in-person obedience classes. Once sit and stay are in the dog's skill set, the door is open for fun games that both the dog and person can play.



Hide and Seek is a game that many dogs enjoy. My Blue Heeler and Corgi really enjoy this game. The dogs are given a sit and stay in the living room. Then, I go down the hall and hide someplace. I make a unique sound that is used only for games. That is their signal to come look for me. Initially, I hid in locations where they could easily find me and I provided lots of verbal cues to help them locate me. Over time as they became adept at the game, the locations became harder to find and the number and volume of verbal cues decreased.

Find It is another fun game. The game begins by giving the dogs a sit and stay before I go to another room. Out of their sight, I hide their favorite toys. I call them and they hurry into the room and



begin looking for their toys. The game ends when both toys are located. The Corgi is much better at finding the toys but the game is fun for both of them.

Years ago I had a Corgi that had never learned to play with toys. I could tell that she wanted to join in play with us but could not figure out how to do it. So I decided to teach her a game that only she knew. I called it Quick Catch. Her mouth was on the small size so I used four racquetballs for the game since they were just her size. I sat on the floor and had her sit on the floor about three feet away and facing me. The four balls were lined up in front of me. One at a time, I tossed a ball at her and she quickly learned to catch it. Next, I tossed the balls quicker, one after the other. In no time, she learned to catch a ball and quickly release it so she was ready to catch the next one. She could very quickly catch twelve throws in a row without a miss. She was real proud of herself and her special skill.

If you have a long hall in your house this next game is for you. I call the game Block It and I play it with dogs and a cat. The object of the game is to have the animal block or stop the ball so it does not get past them. I award me a point if I can get the ball past them and to the end of the hall. To start, I have the animal stay in the doorway where

the hall starts. I go across the room, at least three or four feet away from the animal, and roll a ball toward them. The dogs will try to catch or block the ball. Then, most of the time, they will bring the ball back to me so we can play again. The cat will bat the ball back to me to continue the game.

Playing inside games with dogs and cats is a good way for them to work off some of their energy if you do not want to go outside. In addition, it is a great way to build or strengthen the bond between animals and their people. With a little thought, you can come up with other games that can be enjoyed and played inside. Let the games begin. ♦





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# Please Give Animals a “Brake”

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

One of the most commonly-asked questions wildlife rehabilitators get from the general public is the following: by rehabilitating wild animals, aren't we interfering with nature, and shouldn't we simply let nature take its course? If rehabilitators were simply rescuing animals that were down from storms, or other natural occurrences, that statement would ring true. However, the reality is that about 90% of the wildlife animals that are injured or orphaned

vehicles every year. There are some important things to bear in mind to help avoid, as much as possible, hitting wildlife animals.

It is helpful to be at least somewhat familiar with what animals are most common in our area and a little about their normal behavior. In our part of Texas, we don't have too many wildlife animals that are active during daylight hours, so that minimizes somewhat the risk of hitting anything during the day.



*Left: Armadillo, hit by vehicle in August, severely injured. Left center: Armadillo in November, still recovering, but armor is healing. Right center: Fawn hit by vehicle, broken leg. Right: All healed up and ready for release.*

are needing assistance due to human impacts (habitat loss; poisoning; attacks by domestic dogs or cats; gunshot). However, the most common reason for wildlife animals needing help is that they have been struck by a vehicle. As our county and surrounding areas continue to grow, this is a problem that will no doubt unfortunately get worse. Animal/vehicle accidents are not only dangerous (if not fatal) for the animal, but they cause millions of dollars of damage to

However, birds of prey such as hawks and falcons, as well as songbirds, are active during the day. With raptors, they tend to be focused on prey they are chasing rather than where they are going, so they are more apt to be hit while they are hunting. Conversely, owls will be hunting after dark. It is difficult to be on the lookout for flying birds while you are driving, of course. Be more alert if you are driving on tree-lined roads (birds of prey may be chasing prey



*Left: Great Horned Owl, hit by vehicle, broken wing (wing is wrapped for stabilization while it heals). Right: All healed up. Release day!*





*Left: Red-tailed hawk, hit by vehicle, broken beak. Right: Months later, all recovered and ready for release.*

that is out in the open, i.e. along roadways). Roughly 85-90% of the birds of prey we care for at Friends of Texas Wildlife have been struck by a vehicle, and of course birds are the most difficult to avoid because it is so difficult to see them coming. Squirrels are also active during the day, and they are another commonly hit animal, mainly due to their behavior. In a squirrel's mind, the best way to avoid capture is to run erratically in order to confuse the predator. This strategy works fairly well if you are being pursued by a hawk or coyote. However, it is largely ineffective against cars...an alert driver might swerve to avoid hitting a squirrel, only to have said squirrel dart right back into the path of the car. Best thing to try to avoid hitting a squirrel is to brake, but not alter direction (because usually the squirrel WILL alter direction).

It never ceases to amaze us how many turtles and tortoises come in after being hit. If ever there was an animal that should be easy to avoid, it would be these. They are not generally known for darting out into traffic. We would hate to think that people might hit them intentionally. As reptiles, they have a very slow metabolism, and even with very grave, fatal injuries, death comes slowly to them. It is horrific...please help them out if you can. If it can be safely done, any turtle on the road should be relocated to the side of the road. Make note of which direction the turtle is headed, and then take them to the side of the road they were trying to get to. Especially in spring and early summer, turtles are on the move to breed and lay eggs. They know where they want to go, so don't relocate them, just help them to cross the road.

Many of the mammals we have in our part of Texas are nocturnal. We commonly see raccoons, opossums, skunks, and armadillos coming in as victims of being struck. Most of these animals are relatively slow moving, and they are not too likely to suddenly dart out in front of a car. Where they tend to get into trouble is on poorly-lit roads, or roads with curves where they cannot be easily seen. Raccoons have very good eyesight and hearing and will generally try to run to avoid getting hit. Skunks, opossums, and armadillos all have fairly poor eyesight. By the time they can SEE a car, it's often too late for them to run. A skunk's defense, as we all know, is to turn around to spray anything they deem threatening (rather than run), so that is clearly not helpful to avoid being struck. Opossums are timid and slow so that, coupled with their poor eyesight, just leaves them almost defenseless against cars. They also have a very thin skull as compared to other animals, so if they do get hit, they suffer more severe head trauma. Then there are armadillos...when they get scared, their reaction is to jump straight up in the air, about three feet. Although this may work to frighten off other predators, again it is not a good strategy against a car or truck. By the time they see a car, and react by jumping, it is almost inevitable that they will be hit. All these animals are common in suburban as well as rural areas, so please be aware of their normal behavior and slow down a little at night, especially on very dark roads or roads with curves. Given the chance, they will move along and out of your way.

The most costly and dangerous vehicle/animal accidents involve deer. There are several things to keep in mind to avoid having a collision with a deer. Most important is to be extra alert during the times deer are most active, which is from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after dawn.

Remember that deer seldom run alone, so if you see one, there are probably others nearby or behind the one you see. Obviously use extra caution if you see any deer crossing signs. Use your high-beam headlights on darker roads (if there are no oncoming cars). The higher beam will better illuminate the eyes of any deer nearby. If there is a deer in the roadway, brake firmly but do not swerve and stay in your lane. Many accidents occur when drivers swerve and either hit another vehicle or lose control of their own vehicle. Once you stop, blow your horn to frighten the deer off the road.

The best way to avoid collisions with wildlife is to simply be aware and alert to your surroundings. Distracted driving is dangerous on many levels, so try to pay attention and slow down when conditions warrant it. Not only will that help to keep wildlife safer, but it will keep you and your loved ones safer too!


During this festive time of year, we want to send our best wishes to everyone for a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy new year. Please remember that Friends of Texas Wildlife is wholly dependent on fundraising and donations to support the thousands of animals we rehabilitate every year. We truly cannot do what we do without the support of the community we serve. Donations can be made at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org) (via Paypal or credit card), or mailed to our physical address at 29615 Highland Boulevard, Magnolia, TX 77354.

To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife](http://www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife). Our educational visitor's center is open the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at 29816 Dobbin Hufsmith Road, Magnolia, Texas, so the next open house date will be Saturday, December 14. Come on out and visit us, learn a little more about local wildlife, do some fun activities and a craft, and meet some of our non-releasable wildlife educational animals. We also host birthday parties, camps, and educational presentations. For more information about events, birthday parties, camps, or educational presentations for scouts, schools, or other groups, please visit our website or email [ftwl.education@gmail.com](mailto:ftwl.education@gmail.com). There are many other ways you can help support our efforts, too (such as Kroger Community Rewards, Amazon Smile, etc.). Details can be found at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org), and then click on "How to Help". ♦

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# What in the world is SCADA and what does it mean to the water industry??

By: Matt Volna, SJRA SCADA Manager



*Electrical Connection Setup*

*Antenna Installation*

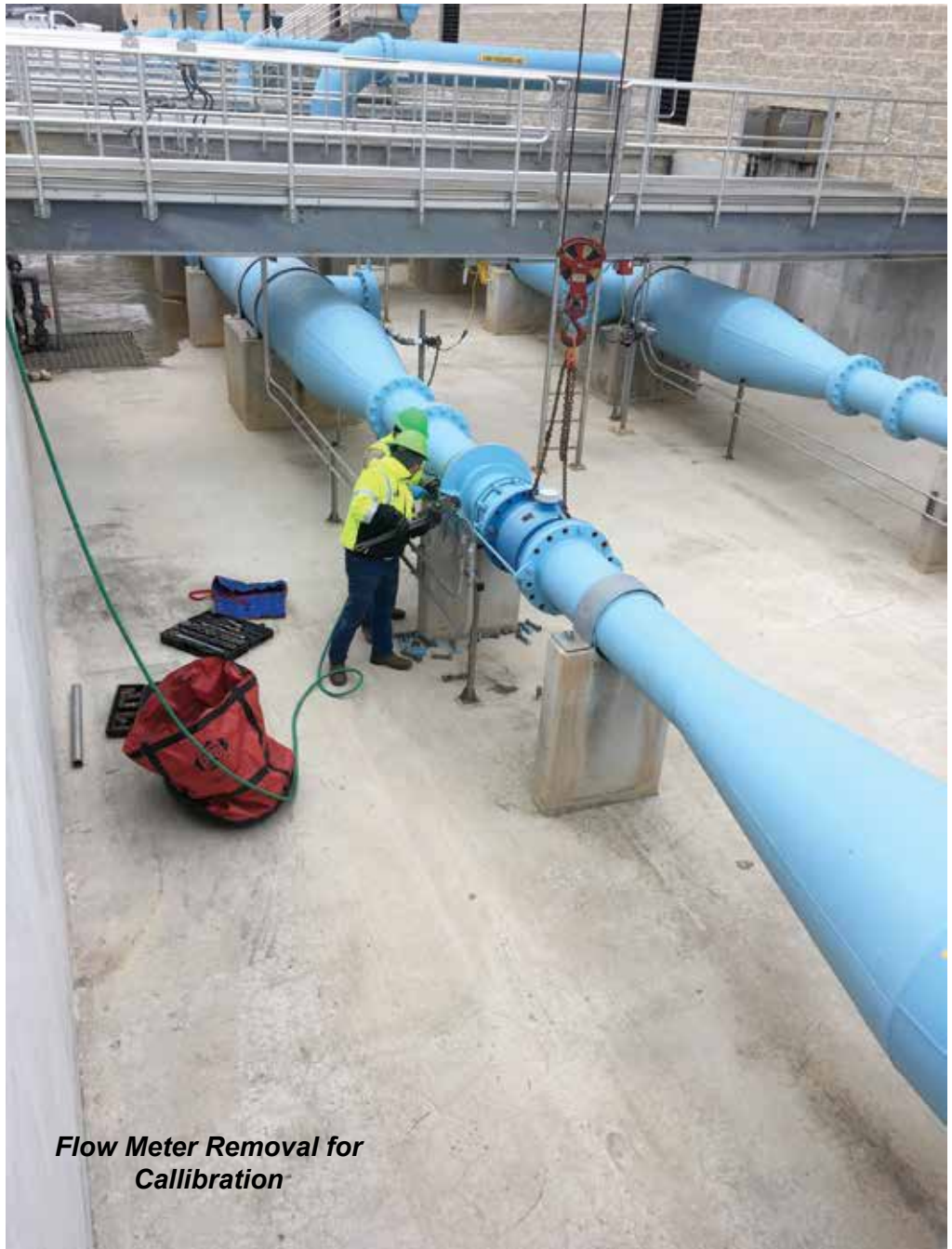




**PLC Panel**

For those not in technical or engineering fields, SCADA may be an unfamiliar term. SCADA is an acronym for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. The San Jacinto River Authority's (SJRA) SCADA system is a control system architecture that utilizes networked data communications between servers, operator workstations, programmable logic controllers (PLCs), field instruments, and human machine interfaces (HMIs) to allow for supervisory control and management of the processes of the SJRA. But, what does that really mean?

When most people think of SCADA, at least those that have even heard of it, they picture someone sitting at a computer with a process laid out on the screen and the ability to turn on a pump, open or close a valve, and make process decisions from a centralized location. Those kinds of operations are certainly part of SJRA's current SCADA sys-



**Flow Meter Removal for Calibration**



**Fiber Optic Cable Installation**

tems, but these systems consist of much more than just the computer and screens with buttons to turn equipment on and off. SCADA relies on fiber optic cables to connect distant devices, radios and cellular communication devices to reach remote locations, and Ethernet cables to link nearby devices.

Many of the devices on a SCADA network are similar to those of an IT Department. In fact, the SJRA SCADA/Instrumentation & Controls Department (I&C) has a dedicated network of servers, switches, routers, and computers along with fiber optic and Ethernet cables connecting them all. In addition to computers and servers, the network includes all the PLCs, local HMIs, and network connections that import data from process instruments installed in the field. All told, SJRA's SCADA systems host over 1,200 network devices. For all this to be installed, maintained, and monitored, SJRA has a staff of three highly-trained SCADA employees who specialize in networking, programming, communications, and cybersecurity.

Now, where does the data that is shared be-

tween the PLCs, HMIs, servers, and operator workstations actually come from? It comes from the process instruments in the field (flow meters, pressure transmitters, pump starters, etc.). The instruments send data to a local PLC via a network connection or by means of a direct, electrical connection. A PLC is an industrial computer that can be programmed to perform a specific task. The PLC is programmed by the SCADA team to do any required tasks the machines are capable of doing. The program could be as simple as starting a pump if a tank gets low, or it could be as complicated as checking the dissolved oxygen content in a basin and starting or stopping any of six blowers while also setting the positions of 20 different valves at a wastewater treatment plant. The PLC can then send its data to any remote location that requires it. A water plant may send data to an off-site well location miles away telling the well to start, or it could be sending the data back to the office. Back at the office, it can be archived and stored for many

*Continued on page 22* ➞



purposes including generating reports, troubleshooting maintenance issues, or fine-tuning more efficient processes. With the complex processes of SJRA, operators are often finding ways of improving plant operations. When this happens, they ask the SCADA specialists to modify the PLC programs.

Like the SCADA Team, the I&C team consists of highly skilled technicians. I&C professionals have the responsibility of maintaining, calibrating, installing, commissioning, decommissioning, and troubleshooting all the field instruments of SJRA. This includes more than 780 different instruments (e.g. pressure transmitters, level transmitters, position encoders), over 190 flow meters, more than 75 uninterruptable power supplies, and over 20 different electric valve and gate actuators. This team also maintains all the analytical instruments, including chlorine analyzers, sulfur dioxide analyzers, pH probes, dissolved oxygen probes, and turbidity meters. Altogether, there are over 1,200 assets that the I&C team maintains on a daily basis.

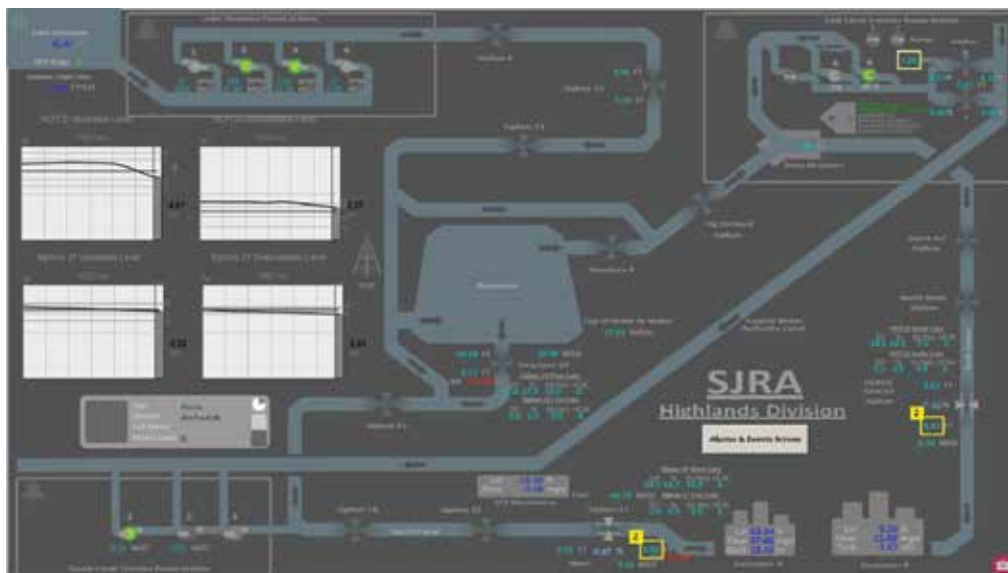
This team is also tasked with maintaining all of the control panels. Some control panels come with a project (e.g. when a process is installed), however there are many that the I&C team needs to build and install. Also, with three licensed electricians on the team, I&C assists the SJRA operating divisions that do not have their own dedicated maintenance department. The I&C team also has the responsibility of monitoring raw water customer instruments to verify they are calibrated to our standards.

SCADA systems constantly monitor all SJRA systems. Because of this, SJRA SCADA staff can be alerted 24/7 if there is a situation that requires their attention. If there is a power outage that happens at 11:00 P.M. on Saturday, the maintenance staff will be alerted; if a pump fails to stop at any time, an operator will be notified to go out and manually stop it. Additionally, it allows the operators to remotely monitor and manipulate the systems they are responsible for with better precision and accuracy.

With the ever-growing demand for reliable water delivery, the collection and treatment of



**Radar level transmitter**



**Highlands SCADA System Screenshot**

wastewater, responsible discharge of treated wastewater to the environment, and delivery of raw water to serve industry, the water business is becoming more complex. This complexity requires the knowledge and expertise of the most experienced operators as well as a dedicated team of technicians and specialists to keep the systems running at peak performance.

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. If you would like to know more about SJRA, what we do, and how we work for the community, check out our website at [www.sjra.net](http://www.sjra.net), like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, follow us on Twitter @SJRA\_1937, or follow us on Instagram @SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA. ♦



# Fishing ADVENTURES

with Derek Pietsch



## 10-24-19 BFL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND LAKE – GROVE OKLAHOMA Day 1

I am very excited to be going to the Regional Championship for the BFL on Grand Lake in Oklahoma. The boaters and co-anglers from four divisions will be competing. The divisions are the Arkie, Cowboy, Illini, and Ozark. The field consists of 45 of the top boaters from each division and the first place winner from 5 tournaments, which makes the field up to 200 teams. I am very fortunate to make it to the regionals the first year. I was ranked 24 in points out of 258 teams this year.

It is quite miserable for fishing today. I am bundled up with long johns, shirt and jacket and rain gear. The only thing is, I only brought my tennis shoes. We all know they will be soaked. This is the beginning of a very rainy tournament.

There are 173 teams fishing today. We will fish for 2 days and the top 12 teams will advance to the 3rd day. My co-angler is Mike. He is from Illinois and he was a prison guard for 19 years and is still working for the prison today. He told me some really wild stories of what goes on in prison.

It's raining and the wind is blowing 15-20 mph and it is 45 degrees. It is cold and wet. I am wearing my motorcycle helmet today to spear the waves.

The first stop we caught a few shorts. We continued to fish and half way through the day we still had no keepers. Mike caught one and it came around the back of the boat, the fish jumped and I netted it and as soon as we got it in the boat the hook fell out. He was lucky he didn't lose that



one. We fished in Duck Creek and caught about 15 shorts.

My chatter bait did not work at all except on one fish. Mike caught a 3 ½ and a 2 pounder. He caught 3 fish for the day. I was by a dock and a bass wrapped me up in the wire and bent the hook and came off. I ended the day disappointed with only one fish.

### Day 2

It is a miserable cold tournament this time. It is still raining and cold, but is supposed to stop raining after noon. Today my co-angler is Trey. He is from Arkansas. The fishing was a little better since I caught 4 fish but they were all small. I ended up with 9-6 total. Not a good weight for 2 days of fishing.

While I was fishing my mom went to the local fishing/tackle store. When she walked in, there was a GIANT FISH suspended from the ceiling. It was the Grand Lake State Record Paddlefish, also called a Spoonbill. She met a man named David that worked there and asked why these fish like living in Grand Lake. He informed her that the lake is filled with plankton. There are farms in Kansas and Missouri that are being fertilized. The run off comes in as the Spring River and Neosho River meet to make one river called the Grand River, which feeds into Grand Lake. The fertilizer makes the plankton thrive. Paddlefish swim through the water with their mouths open to scoop up zooplankton. They have an ability to use special cells on the bill to sense the weak electrical signals generated by plankton. Since paddlefish don't bite on bait anglers have to catch them by snagging. Anglers have to find a pod or school of fish. Then they drive the boat through the school with a dipsy diver and a hook to snag one in the pod. Once you keep one, you are done fishing for the day. The limit is one a day and 2 per year.

The Spring River is the sanctuary for the paddlefish. They go up the river to spawn. You can only catch them in the Neosho River. The weight

of these fish range from 20-120 pounds. Although the record fish caught weighed 132.8 pounds. Monday and Fridays are snag and release days.

They survived the Ice Age and the effects of the impact from meteorites. Fossil records of this fish date back over 300 million years, almost 50 million years before the first dinosaurs appeared.

**Throw It Out, Pop It In, Fish On! ♦**







# Online with Dock Line

## The Importance of Google My Business

*In the current race to improve rankings, Google My Business cannot be overlooked. It needs to become part of your marketing strategy, and rate as one of the most important things you do.*

By: Dock Line Social Media Team

### The Importance of Google My Business

If you haven't already done so you should ensure you have added your business to Google, but stopping there is not enough, you then need to optimize your listing to make sure it is working for you.

### Where Do Customers Come From?

This might sound like a trite question, but you must understand how your customers find you. In the current age of technology, social media is another critical piece of the jigsaw, and you might well have someone on board to take care of your social platforms. Most businesses find that Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are the best to be active on, for B2B companies you should also consider LinkedIn. Social media works well with referrals, and this is another essential way to increase your customer base. Previous customers share and comment on their positive experiences. Because human nature is to trust friends by extension, you become a reliable source for new customers as you have been endorsed.

If you are a local business, then Google My Business should not be overlooked. Did you know each second Google receives over 63,000 searches on any given day? If you do the math, you will see that this means, there are 5.6 billion searches each day. You are going to want some of that action, and suddenly you can see why Google My Business becomes one of the most crucial internet platforms for your company.

This is where an excellent Social Media Strategist comes in; it is their job to ensure that every possible outlet is considered for your business, not just the prominent places. Google My Busi-

ness needs to be treated with as much importance as other platforms, and this means daily updates, images and videos should be posted. This helps to ensure that your page ranks towards the top when Google visitors use the relative search terms.

### Put Your Business in the Spotlight

The statistics above should speak for themselves, but it is also worth knowing that Google is the first port of call for customers looking for local businesses. Furthermore, almost 75% of these searchers go onto make purchases online. It makes

business sense to open as many doors as possible, making yourself highly visible to prospective customers looking for products and services that match your own. It is a more specific platform for business, as while we know and utilize the merits of platforms like Facebook it is worth remembering that users are there for a lot of reasons not specifically to find businesses and services.

Google My Business is a much better function than the old style of Google listings and Google Plus. It has a lot more relevance and gives you the chance to create a dedicated business pro-





file with the most up to date information, and of course, because Google owns it, it is favored in the search engine rankings. You may even find your Google My Business profile outranks your website, but in this case, that is not a problem.

#### The Takeaway

In the current race to improve rankings, Google My Business cannot be overlooked. It needs to become part of your marketing strategy, and rate as one of the most important things you do. If you would like help with Google My Business or any of the other marketing channels you should be targeting, have a chat with us at The Dock Line Social Media Strategy Team today!

If you have any questions about this article or would like additional tips and tricks or information. Don't hesitate to contact us at [social@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:social@docklinemagazine.com)! ♦

Do you have a suggestion topic for our next article?

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*The blue in a bluebird's feathers is an optical trick because a bluebird has no blue pigmentation!*



# The Dazzling Colors Of Feathers

Birds can be such glorious colors...reds, blues, greens, oranges, yellows, and some are even iridescent! We humans see a particular feather color because that is the color reflected back to our eyes, while all other colors in the spectrum are absorbed by the feathers. But it becomes even more complex because the feather color we see happens in two ways. One way is due to pigmentation, and the other is due to microscopic feather structure.

Those bold red feathers of a male cardinal and the pink feathers of a flamingo are created by what they eat. Seeds, insects, plants and crustaceans all have carotenoids, which are fat soluble red-orange-yellow pigments. These colorful pigments are absorbed into some birds' systems. Birds such as cardinals and flamingos are able to process the pigment so the color permeates their bodies and feathers. In flamingos the pink is caused by the crabs, crustaceans and algae they eat. In cardinals it's plants, seeds and insects. If you found a feather from either bird and crushed it to a powder, you would see red or pink powder because those pigments are disbursed throughout their feathers. Additionally, a melanin pigment naturally occurs in birds (and humans) which causes feathers to be primarily brown and/or black. Finally, some birds can produce green feathers due to the amino acids, or porphyrins, in their systems. In



*Is it boring to see a bird with only brown and black melanin pigmentation? No way! Ospreys are stunning!*



*Special feather microstructure scatters light like a prism, and causes the shimmering iridescence of green-headed mallards.*

short, what birds eat and how their bodies process food give their feathers almost all the colors in the crayon box. Almost all, except for blue!

Blue. Now there is a bird of a different color! In nature there is no blue pigment in blue feathers...not in bluebirds, blue jays, parrots or any bird with blue feathers! So why do we see blue if there is no blue pigment? Blue is created when light hits the birds' unusual microscopic feather structure, and all the colors of the light spectrum that humans can see are absorbed, except for blue. Blue is reflected back, and therefore is what we see. If a molted blue feather is crushed into powder thereby destroying the feather structure, we would only see a pile of brown dust! Amazing! Blue feathers are truly an optical trick. In addition, the iridescence seen in some birds - the chin of a hummingbird, the shimmer of a green-headed mallard - is also caused by feather microstructure rather than pigmentation. To create iridescent feathers





*The astounding feather colors of a painted bunting are made in a mix of ways – amino acids, pigment-rich foods, and feather microstructure. This fellow has it all going on!*

light is refracted off of a special feather structure, as if it were a prism, making the feathers shimmer and glow.

This leads us finally to the painted bunting. These males are a dazzle of colors! They not only have that special feather microstructure that makes us see blue, they also have all possible types of biochemical pigmentation! It's all mixed and jumbled in this one bird, and we see amazing feathers of red, green, yellow, orange, and blue. A painted bunting is a living rainbow!

Learn more about the incredible nature in our area by joining a chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist organization. To find a chapter close to you, or to read about the state program, go online to [www.txmn.org](http://www.txmn.org). Volunteer and get involved! ♦



*The red in cardinal feathers is caused by the colorful fat soluble pigments found in what they eat – insects, seeds and plants.*





# Helping Our Community Animals In Need This Holiday Season

**By: Ruby Cross, Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas, 501c3 (ASVT)**

Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas has more than 200 animals in foster care and it is a revolving door. Every animal has a story and how it came to us. The stream of homeless animals never ends.

ASVT takes in unwanted, discarded community animals to lighten the load in shelters and places them in ASVT foster homes until they are adopted. Unfortunately we can't take them all. Unwanted animals are at an all-time high and the local shelters are continuously over capacity. There is no sign of slow-down in sight!

How can you help our homeless community animals this holiday season?

## **Donate**

Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. We are dedicated to helping abandoned, abused and neglected animals. NO ONE IS PAID and we appreciate the Donations, Fosters and Volunteers to help us continue. ASVT relies on your support with donations and support to continue saving our community animals.

This holiday season please consider making a donation. Remember, it is tax deductible. Just visit our website and use the DONATE button.

## **Fostering**

Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas is a foster based rescue organization. We depend on foster

parents to help us improve the quality of lives for animals in our community. ASVT has been active in rescuing homeless and abandoned pets since 2010.

Please consider opening your heart and home to a foster pet. Make their holiday a joyous one with a loving family, warm bed and good food to eat.

Submit your Foster Application today to foster a homeless pet at [www.ASVTexas.org/foster-application.html](http://www.ASVTexas.org/foster-application.html)

## **Adopt**

Montgomery County Animal Shelter (MCAS) located on Hwy 242 in Conroe takes in an average of 100 animals a day and houses 500 plus and has over 400 in foster care. Can you visualize what that must be like? They arrive unwanted, some starving, sick and neglected.

ASVT, other rescues and MCAS are working together to rehome shelter animals and increase spay/neuter in our community. There are LOW COST spay/neuter programs available. There is not a good reason to not have animals spayed or neutered. Most of the photos shown here are victims of unwanted litters. Just during the months of September and October ASVT took in over 80 puppies. If you find a pet you are interested in adopting, just submit an Adoption Application at



*Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season! Elvis is guiding Santa on his way!*



CHARITY



FAITH



HOPE



LEWIS





[www.ASVTexas.org/adoption-application.html](http://www.ASVTexas.org/adoption-application.html)

ASVT also hosts adoption events at various locations. Just look for our signs! We use social media and a number of pet finder sites to network our available animals for adoption. Our foster families take in animals to free up kennels in our local shelters and rehabilitate and socialize them. ASVT also networks with other rescue groups. We believe in working together for the welfare of the animals.

#### Volunteer

As a non-profit organization, ASVT relies on the assistance of caring and hard-working volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeline for each and every animal that comes through our program. Volunteers who work directly with rescue animals can increase an animal's chance of adoption by providing additional human contact.

Just look into the eyes of any of our rescue animals and you will see gratitude for the second chance at a better life given to them by our volunteers. These are just a few of the ways volunteers can help.

- Attend adoption events or assist with meet and greets.
- Implement fundraising events.
- Serve on a committee or serve as an event coordinator.

- Be part of our marketing team.
- Transport animals from shelters, foster homes and/or veterinarian appointments.
- Provide TLC (Tender Loving Care). We sometimes have animals that end up with longer than desirable stays at a boarding facility. These animals would LOVE a visit from a volunteer not to mention some time away from where they are staying.

Please submit a Volunteer Application if you have a little extra time to help the animals at [www.ASVTexas.org/volunteer-application.html](http://www.ASVTexas.org/volunteer-application.html)

Some safety tips to keep your pets safe during this holiday season.

- Keep people food out of the reach of your pet, and ask your guests to do the same.
- Make sure your pet doesn't have any access to treats, especially those containing chocolate, xylitol, grapes/raisins, onions or other toxic foods.
- Don't leave your pet alone in the room with lit candles, a decorated tree or potpourri.
- Keep holiday plants (especially holly, mistletoe and lilies) out of reach of pets.
- Consider leaving the tinsel off your tree if you have a cat.
- Secure your Christmas tree to keep it from falling over if your dog bumps it or your cat climbs it. Hanging lemon-scented car air fresheners in the tree may deter your cat from climbing it.
- Provide a safe place for your pet to escape the excitement (such as a kennel, crate, perching place, scratching post shelf or hiding place) if you're entertaining guests. If your pet is excitable or scared, consider putting your pet in another room with some toys and a comfortable bed.

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP US HELP THEM? ADOPT, SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER, FOSTER, DONATE!

You can visit our website to sign up to vol-



unteer and/or foster and donate using our DONATE button. Donations help us pay for medical expenses, food, supplies and transporting animals to areas with high adoption needs.

ASVT also sponsors a Spay/Neuter Program for community animals whose owners cannot afford to have their pets altered. This helps decrease the rise of community puppies and kittens that will end up in the shelters.

The accomplishments of ASVT would not be possible without partners like Wiesner Automotive, Empire Electric, Dock Line Magazine and so many more. ♦





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