

Dock Line Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

February 2020



**Discount
Concrete Leveling**

Concrete Evidence You're Paying Too Much for Slab Repair

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**Only rain in the drain!
SJRA Stormwater Inlet
Marking (SWIM) Program**
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Dead Trees Give New Life
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It's hard to believe we are already in the second month of 2020. February has always been a exciting month with lots of festivities but this year brings us even more excitement as we announce our long over due new merger with the great people at Voixly LLC. The innovative new things they bring to Dock Line Magazine will allow us to show our clients even more love when it comes to their marketing visions, the sky's the limit this year and we are stoked.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all our advertisers, readers and partners for helping us move on through another great year because without your loyalty and support we could not take this next step. Remember to shop local and get out there to enjoy some or all of the fun events your community has to offer in February. Most of all keep reading Dock Line Magazine. Until next month,

GT2 

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Dock Line Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

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*Brett Weary is the owner
of Discount Concrete
Leveling.*



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Dock Line Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

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Livingston Trade Days

When: February 15 & 16, 2020

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 accessories, 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 or visit www.cityoflivingston-tx.com/tradedays.

Huntsville Audubon Society

When: Thursday, February 20, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m. – Snacks and chat; 6:30 p.m. – Guest Presentation

Where: St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 5019 Sam Houston Ave (TX-75), Huntsville, TX

Join fellow birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts Thursday, Feb 20 for "Edible Plants" presented by Master Naturalist Erik Wolf. Bottled water provided, but please bring a snack to share. For additional information email huntsvilletxaudubon@gmail.com. All are welcome!

Empty Bowls

When: February 25, 2020

Time: Create A Bowl Sessions: Mon. 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Glazing

Bowls: Tues.-Fri. 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: The Wynne Home Arts & Visitor Center, 1428 11th St., Huntsville, TX 77340

Admission: Free

The Wynne Home Arts & Visitor Center is looking for volunteers to help make bowls for the annual Empty Bowl Fundraiser, held on February 25, 2020. No previous potter experience is necessary to attend the bowl making sessions. Volunteers are encouraged to stay at least an hour in order to complete a bowl. For more information call 936-291-5424.

Rusty, Chippy, Hippy & Garden Vintage Antique & Re-purpose Show

When: March 14 & 15, 2020

Time: Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m. & Sun. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Admission: \$7.00 - good for both days:

Children under 12 are Free

Where: Walker County Fairgrounds, 3925 SH 30, Huntsville, TX 77340

Our event is focused on vintage and re-purposed goods as well as farmhouse and antiques. Come and visit us in the Climate Controlled Main building at Walker County Fairgrounds on March 14th & 15th, 2020. This is a two-day event that you will not want to miss. We have Dealers from all across the Countryside, bringing their latest finds and ideas. The first show was a huge success, from the Antiques, Yard Art to the Painted Furniture, Silver & Turquoise Jewelry, Shabby Chic and more. There will be over 100 dealers. For more information call 936-661-2545 or visit www.huntsvilleantiqueshow.com. ♦

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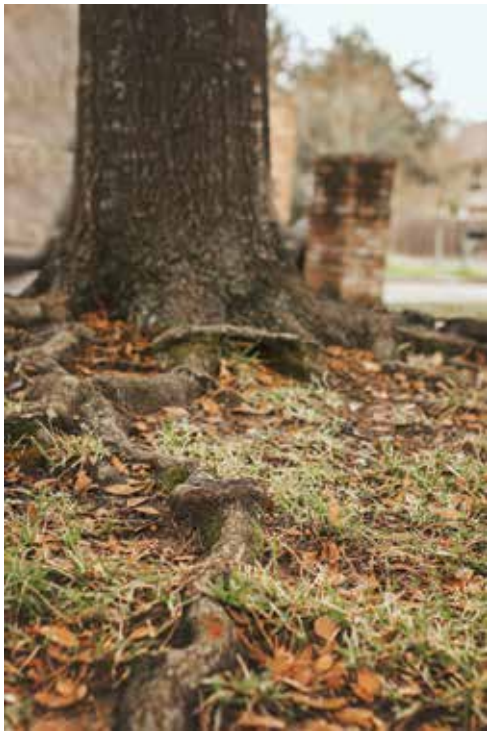
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Concrete Evidence You're Paying Too Much for Slab Repair

By: Brian Sherman





In 2009, Brett Weary started Discount Concrete Leveling Service to provide immediate solutions to people's concrete problems. His desire was to save customers time and money.

"Removing sunken slabs and pouring fresh concrete is expensive," says Weary, "versus raising and leveling existing slabs."

With his knowledge and expertise, he had a desire to provide home owners with cost effective ways to extend the life of their concrete, and that is what he endeavored to do.

Discount Concrete Leveling Service specializes in repairing and restoring broken, uneven driveways, sidewalks, patios and other freestanding concrete areas. The process is efficient and effective, often completed in a single day and at a fraction of what it would cost to replace the problem areas.

A proud Aggie, Brett Weary operates his family-owned small business with customer satisfaction at the forefront. He has worked in customer service for over 20 years and prides himself in not only a job well done but the customer's gratification in knowing



Continued on page 10 ➡





they received the attention and workmanship they deserve. How does he do that? Every client of Discount Concrete Leveling Service can feel reassured that their job is being done right because the owner comes and works at every job.

Discount Concrete Leveling Service is located in Houston and provides concrete

services to all of Harris County and Montgomery County. Whenever you call Discount Concrete Leveling Service, you reach a representative ready to respond to your request. Their estimates are completely free. They are committed to serving their new and repeat customers with excellent integrity.

"Being a smaller company allows for

greater time for attention to detail and the client's concerns," says Weary, "that is what makes us different from our competitors."

When asked about his favorite thing about his community, Weary described people that have time and again come together to help one another, like in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. He felt appreciated for the hands-on hard work he did for the many homes who had incurred heavy rains and flooding, which caused the earth below their slabs to wash out; resulting in sunken slabs. Despite their hardships, Weary saw neighbors helping one another cleaning up and referring each other to small businesses like his that could help and be cost effective.

Continued on page 12 ➞

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Not only has Discount Concrete Leveling Service saved their customers thousands of dollars in needless replacements, but this practice has kept old concrete out of the landfills. According to the EPA, roughly 50 percent of materials put into the landfills are concrete and demolition debris materials. These materials are heavy and non-compactable and reduce the air space. The community deserves hard-working, honest business owners to aid in the betterment of their cities.

The consensus for most people is thinking of concrete repairs as costly, and they become fearful. "Don't replace it; level it" is the advice this expert would give to residential homeowners looking for a cost effective way to extend the life of their non-load bearing flatwork.

"Water intrusion through the joints degrades the subgrade below the slabs, causing an unstable bedding for the slab," he says, "and sealing joints between the slabs contributes to extending the life of the slab, [called] expansion joint replacement and sealant with self leveling polyurethane."

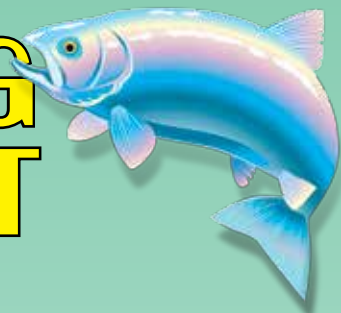
Many happy customers over the years have been pleasantly surprised at how affordable concrete raising and leveling is, especially compared with the cost of tear-out and replacement. The cost of leveling usually represents a savings of 50%-70% over replacement. The leveling process can be completed and ready for use in a matter of hours. In addition to free evaluations and estimates, Discount Concrete Leveling Service offers a two-year warranty on all work. And unlike other repair options, leveling and restoring concrete requires no building permits or municipal inspections.



"Our work is covered under repairs and maintenance," explained Weary. "That's one reason we can usually get the work done in a single day. If you have a problem with broken, uneven or misaligned concrete at your home or office, give us a call," said Weary. "We can stop the problem, put the concrete back in place and make sure it doesn't happen again."

Discount Concrete Leveling Service provides cost effective repair services for driveways, sidewalks, patios and other residential and commercial properties throughout Montgomery County and the greater Houston area. For information, visit www.DiscountConcreteLeveling.com or call 713-568-9456. ♦

FISHING REPORT



By: David Scott Cox

FISHING FORECAST: Run Run Run, conditions are shaping up for one of the best White Bass runs in recent memory. It was a tough year last year with all of the flooding. Now, the river is in great shape and the Whites are stacking up for their annual spring run. If the river stays clear, fish the river. Following local spring rains fish up the creeks. White Rock, Carolina, Harmon and Bedias Creeks should be stacked with spawning Whites.

SPECIES REPORT:

Black Bass {largemouth} – Some nice fish are being caught now on "Charlie's Gecko" in June Bug Texas rigged fished around boat houses in Kickapoo and Sandy Creeks. Fish the boat houses in Thomas Lake with crank baits and red shad Berkly Power worms.

Catfish – Good numbers of big Blue Cats being caught on fresh shad drift fished on lower lake flats. 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 spotty with some good numbers of fishing being caught on minnows in the boat houses and in the brush up Kickapoo Creek. Fish Harmon, Dillard and White Rock Creeks for spawning Crappie now.

White Bass – Stay on top of current conditions to stack up the Whites now. Throw medium diving crank baits and rattle traps in the river. Throw 1" pearl sassy shad and ¼ oz. Tsunami cocktails in the creeks.

Good Luck Fishing Lake Livingston!
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Back to Health

By: Tony W. DeRamus, DC, CCSP



A New Attitude Towards Flu Season: Chance or Choice?

With flu season here, it is important for us to recognize some of the lifestyle choices that contribute to our increased susceptibility to the flu.

Our bodies have an incredible ability to adapt to their environments and maintain a state of balance. It is this balance that creates true health and well-being. However, physical, emotional and chemical stresses negatively affect our bodies' ability to adapt and maintain this balance.

All summer long we enjoy the sunshine, fresh air, and an increase in outdoor physical activities. Schedules are less hectic and there is more opportunity to relax. Fresh fruits and vegetables are in abundance, and we tend to eat lighter, more nutritious foods.

With winter comes the stress of the holiday season. Shopping, preparations, and hectic deadlines combined with already busy schedules often force us to replace regular good eating habits with fast food. "Take out" becomes easier to fit into our on-the-go lifestyles than preparing home cooked meals. Foods associated with the holidays also add to the mix of increased chemical stress and decrease our family's immune system function. All the preparation, all the parties, all the rushing, all of the increased stressors begin to take their toll on our family's health.

Considering the amount of stress our families go through during the holidays, is it any wonder that the holiday season is also synonymous with flu season? In chiropractic we recognize that



an increase in these stresses negatively affect the nervous system, which in turn affects the body's ability to function in its maximum state of health. Continuous physical, chemical and emotional stress overload will lead to a state of disease in our bodies, and our bodies respond with decreased immune function.

When the immune system goes into stress overload one of the first signs or symptoms is fever. It is important to note that it is our own immune system that creates fever and the fever is actually the body's way of overcoming the disease or toxicity.

Society tends to take fever-reducing medication at the first sign of fever. When a fever is artificially suppressed in this way, the body's defense system remains inactive allowing the toxin to remain in the body. Once the fever has subsided, the assumption is that one is healthy, which is often not the case. There is actually a great possibility that when the fever-reducing medication has worn off, we will be sicker than before because the toxin never really went away. Fever needs to be monitored, not suppressed.

Regular chiropractic care is one way of helping our bodies maintain a state of balance and cope with the never ending stresses we are exposed to. Our nerve system and immune system function are closely connected. Therefore, spinal nerve stress negatively affects both our nerve and immune systems. Reducing interference to the nerve system on a regular basis with chiropractic adjustments allows the immune system to function better.

Our lifestyles play an important role in our bodies' ability to function in a state of health. Proper nutrition, adequate rest and exercise are all important to keep our immune systems strong and healthy. Choices we make daily and seasonally affect our immune system function.

Although it may seem impossible to resist the stresses imposed on us by the demands of our hectic lifestyle, we can reduce the effects these stresses have on our families' health. The key to health and vitality for your families depends on two ingredients: the lifestyle choices we make that reduce ongoing stressors and what we do to help our bodies adapt to the incoming stressors we cannot change. ♦



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A Cat's Tail

By: Marilyn Meshell

Years ago, a small orange kitten showed up in my front yard. The kitten was friendly and quickly let me know that this was its new home. It did not seem to matter that there were two dogs living at the chosen residence. Being a dog person, I had never had a cat and knew very little about caring for a cat other than that they needed a litter box and required different food than dogs. I could not even tell the gender of the kitten.

I searched for the kitten's owner without success. So after buying a litter box, litter, and kitten food, off to the veterinarian's office we went for immunizations. As I had guessed, the kitten was about six months old. It turned out that the kitten was a male. When I asked how large he would grow, the veterinarian informed me that the kitten should end up about eight pounds. Boy did he miss that one. In the next few months, the cat

on the couch with the family, preferably in a lap.

One book theorized that cats do not come when called because they have not been taught their name. After all, you cannot expect a cat to respond if he does not know that you are talking to him. So I made an effort to teach Willie his name. I used his name numerous times throughout the day and at mealtime. In a few days, he knew his name.

Both books stressed that cats do not like change, especially moving their litter box to another location. I am glad Willie did not read that part



of the books either because from time to time, I take Willie and his doggie sisters on a road trip to visit family. That means that the litter box is moved many miles north of its usual location. For the first few minutes we are in the vehicle, he will vocalize until he realizes that he is not being dropped off for boarding. Then, he gets comfortable in his carrier and settles in for a long snooze. Turns out that Willie is a great traveler and at our destination, he

is a good guest. He has had no trouble locating his litter box in a new location and reliably using it.

Another point the books made about cat behavior is to watch their movements, especially the ears and tail, to understand their mood. It is easy to see when a cat's ears are erect and the whiskers are slightly droopy that the cat is relaxed. If the ears point slightly forward, the cat is curious. In attack mode, the ears are flattened and whiskers

are forward. Tail movements are another clue to a cat's mood. If the tip of the tail twitches, the cat is excited, curious, or it is a friendly greeting. If the whole tail switches side to side quickly, the cat is bothered. When a cat thumps its tail against the floor, he is frustrated or upset and you should stop whatever you are doing to cause the frustration. A puffed up tail indicates fear. A tail held up high means the cat is content or confident. But all the information about tail movements and what they mean did not help me one little bit because Willie does not have a tail.

Willie is a Manx cat. They are known for being medium to large size cats and they are a naturally tailless, save for a few exceptions. They are

affectionate, not chatty, and are friendly with dogs. In some respects Manx cats have a more dog-like personality than cats in general. That is definitely true for Willie. He enjoys playing with his doggie sisters and he is comfortable sleeping on the same bed with them.

A Manx cat may be a good choice for a first-time cat owner who wants a dog-friendly feline. A Manx can be a loving family member. Just keep in mind that you will need to "read" ears because the tail will provide no clues. ♦



grew and grew and reached twelve pounds. He is not obese, just a big guy.

I bought a couple of cat reference books as I was curious about cat behavior. The books stated that cats are somewhat aloof, interaction with people is on the cat's terms, and cats rule the household. Obviously, my cat had not read those books because he is not that way at all. He is very friendly easy-going guy who enjoys being in the



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SJRA Stormwater Inlet Marking (SwIM) Program

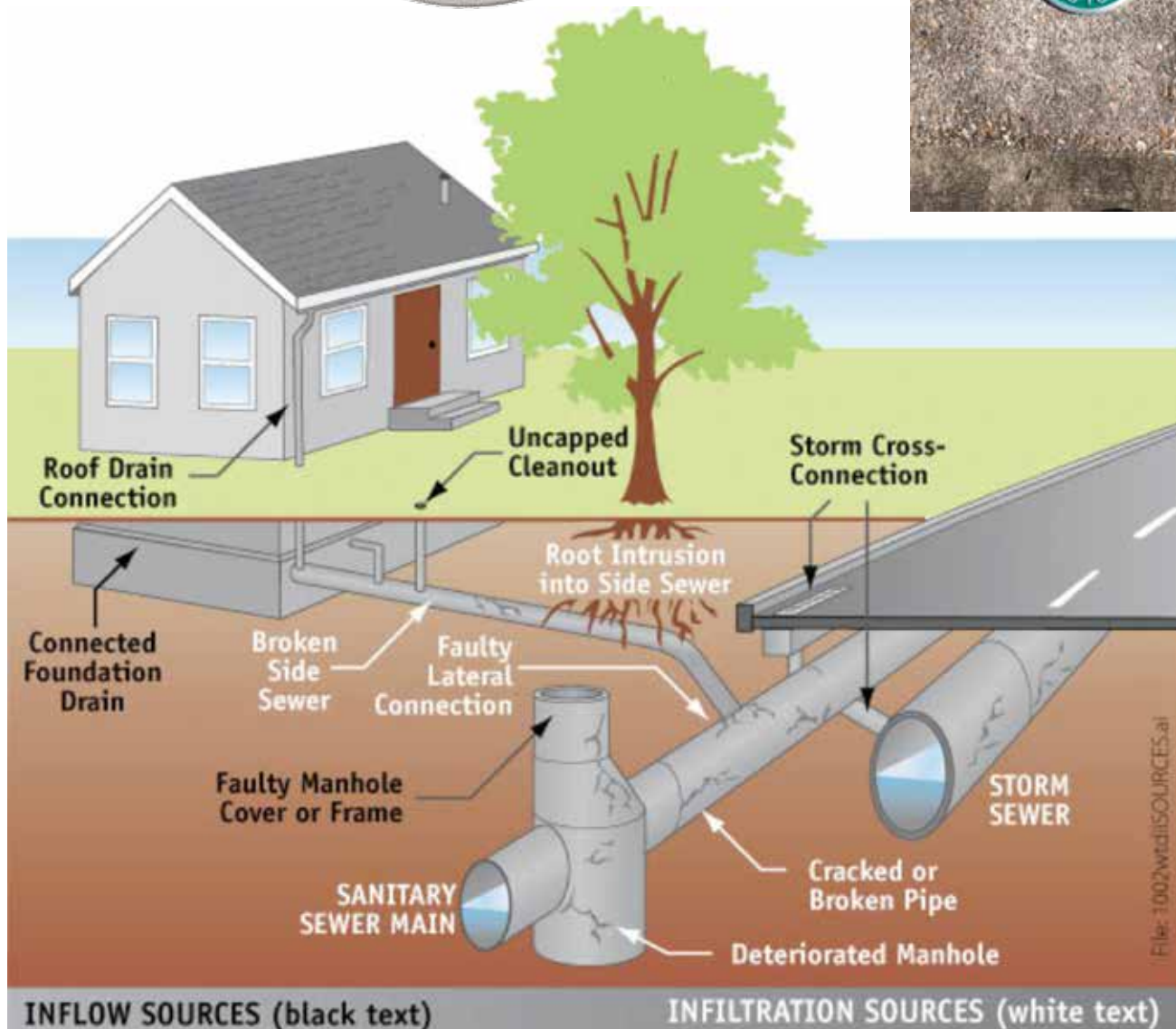
Most people do not realize the rain water that flows down our streets, over parking lots, through parks and yards, and into open drains flows directly into Lake Conroe. Our community actions and behaviors have a significant and direct impact on preserving high water quality in the Lake Conroe Watershed.

Stormwater runoff drains directly to waterways without being filtered or treated at a wastewater treatment plant or sewage facility. It picks up pollutants such



as pet waste, grass, oil residue, pesticides, and fertilizers on its way to the drain and the lake. Additionally, disposing of liquids such as paint, gasoline, or motor oil in the storm drain is the same as dumping it directly right into the lake.

Contaminated stormwater runoff can be harmful to plants and animals that inhabit the lake, can clog pipes and drains increasing the risk of flooding, and can pose a health risk to those





who come in contact with the water fishing, swimming, or skiing.

With a focus to preserve the high quality of Lake Conroe, the San Jacinto River Authority's (SJRA) Stormwater Inlet Marking (SwIM) Program was created in 2015 as a visual reminder that only rain belongs down the drain. SwIM is an educational and "hands-on" outreach program to improve water quality by raising awareness of illegal dumping of pollutants into the storm sewer system.

The program not only aims to reduce dumping, but it also serves as a community service activity. The SwIM Program gives local communities, schools, groups, and others the opportunity to lend a hand by applying storm drain inlet marker medallions to the top of storm drains in neighborhoods throughout the Lake Conroe Watershed.

Lake Conroe is currently one of the highest quality bodies of water in the greater Houston area, meeting or exceeding all the Clean Water Act standards for contact recreation, public water supply, and aquatic habitat. Proper removal of pet waste, trash pick-up, suitable chemical disposal, and accurate fertilizer application can all preserve the high quality of Lake Conroe.

For more information on SwIM or to schedule a SwIM inlet marking event contact SJRA at <https://www.sjra.net/lakeconroe/stormwater-inlet-marking/>

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 Coun-

ty. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at www.sjra.net, like SJRA on Facebook @ SanJacintoRiverAuthority, follow us on Twitter @ SJRA_1937, or Instagram @SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA. ♦



Dead Trees Give New Life

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

Oh no, that tree is dead! We've all probably said that at one time or another. Spring arrives, all the trees and plants are budding out and "springing" back to life, but there's that one tree that just doesn't come back. The first inclination, of course, is that the tree has got to go. However, leaving dead trees is a vital part of maintaining a healthy environment, as dead trees can truly provide life after death.

The forestry term for a standing dead or partially dead tree is a snag. However, many people are starting to refer to these ghosts as "wildlife trees". In North America, as many as 85 species of birds, 50 species of mammals, and many, many reptiles and amphibians depend on dead trees for shelter, food, and nesting. Dead trees are, of course, also home or food for many types of invertebrates (such as insects, spiders, worms, and more), which in turn also attract the birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that feed on them. However, by far the greatest benefit dead trees provide to wildlife are cavities, or holes, in branches or trunks. These cavities are vitally important nesting and sheltering sites to many species, such as:

- Many types of birds will only nest in cavities, such as woodpeckers, chickadees, bluebirds, nuthatches, wrens, tree swallows, titmice, kestrels, and wood ducks



Most owls in our area prefer to nest in tree cavities if they are available. Left: barred owl. Center: Great Horned owlets. Right: Eastern Screech owlets. They were left homeless after dead trees were cut down, destroying their nests.

- Eastern screech owls, barred owls, barn owls, and great horned owls
- Mammals such as flying squirrels, gray squirrels, fox squirrels, raccoons, bats, porcupines. Even opossums, which are marsupials, will use tree cavities as dens.

Woodpeckers are the primary excavators for drilling cavities into snags. Abandoned woodpecker holes are then used by other species of birds that depend on them for nesting sites. Cavities are also used by frogs, snakes, honeybees, wasps, and spiders. In addition to providing shelter, dead trees or trees with dead limbs are also invaluable to wildlife for other reasons:

- Eagles, hawks, or owls use snags or dead branches when hunting to get a clear view of prey
- Ospreys may nest in larger snags near open water
- Birds that catch insects on the fly (such as flycatchers, smaller hawks, kites, shrikes, kestrels, and small owls) will use snags to launch their aerial attacks
- Snakes use logs from snags for multiple things, such as sheltering, hunting for prey, sunning themselves (for thermoregulation), or hibernating in winter.
- The woodpeckers who depend on snags for nesting also excavate them for insects, which provide them with the food they need for themselves and to raise their young. Some woodpeckers also store food (such as nuts or acorns) in holes they drill into dead trees.
- Salamanders use rotting logs as both shelter and a source of food (insects)
- Many species of fungi grow only on dead wood

In wooded areas, it is thought that to maintain a healthy environment four or five snags should be left per acre. Of course, safety to people and property should be taken into consideration, and it is advisable to seek the advice of a professional arborist in some cases. It is important to assess the feasibility of leaving a dead tree as is, modifying the tree, or having to remove it due to safety concerns. Bear in mind that all dead trees will eventually lose limbs and fall, so retained dead trees should always be periodically reevaluated and trimmed or removed as needed. Not all snags can or should be saved. How-



Many small mammals will nest in hollow tree limbs or tree cavities. Left: baby flying squirrel. Center: baby raccoon. Right: baby fox squirrel (injured by tree-cutting equipment)

ever, in some cases removing the entire tree may not be necessary.

When assessing a dead tree, look to see if there is any risk to a structure, pathway, or driveway from either falling limbs or the tree itself. Consider shortening the tree to a height that reduces its risk of falling. The wider the trunk and taller the tree, the more value it is to wildlife. However, even a tree 10 feet in height can be of value for foraging and possibly for nesting. If limbs need to be trimmed back to lessen the fall hazard, try to leave at least 18" in length or longer (if you can safely do so). Limbs that are 6" or more in diameter are better suited for cavity excavation. If there is too much of a risk of falling limbs causing damage, you can always remove most limbs, just leaving some short and sturdy ones cut close to the trunk that can at least be used for perching.

While snags may not be the most attractive element of your landscape, they are invaluable to many types of wildlife, and they can provide you years of interesting and varied wildlife viewing. Please consider including snags in your landscape plans. If wildlife animals have a natural place to nest and shelter, it also greatly reduces the chances that they will try to get into your home, garage, or attic.

Friends of Texas Wildlife will be having an Open House on Saturday, March 21 from 11 am to 3 pm. At this open house, we will have many interesting educational displays. All our educational animals will be there for you to visit with (opossum; box turtles; snake; owls; and hawks). Staff from the Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center will be there with some of their snakes. For the first time ever, we will be offering "behind the scenes" tours of our flight enclosures and intake center. This is the only time this year our entire facility will be open to the public. \$5 per person, kids 3 and under free. More details available at www.ftwl.org.

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/Saving-TexasWildlife. 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, February 8. 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, Spring Break & summer 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. 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, and then click on "How to Help". ♦



All of these songbirds nest in cavities. Left: bluebird. Center left: red-bellied woodpeckers. Center right: black-capped chickadees. Right: red-headed woodpecker. These birds are insect eaters and beneficial to have around yards and gardens.

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Can You Really “Make Money Online?”

Cutting through the spam to find out what really works, and how much work it really takes.

By: Brian Sherman

How many times have you seen those ads promising you an escape from your 9 to 5 job, living a life of luxury while you make tons of money using only a laptop and an internet connection? It's safe to say that no one is immune to these kinds of messages coming across their social media feeds almost daily. At this point, we aren't fooled. People running those ads are just selling something and we aren't “buying” it. But it does make you wonder...

Aside from the sensationalist advertising that bombards us with the promise of financial freedom, is it actually possible? Can you really make money online? Can you really make enough to quit your job and travel the world?

Well, actually, yes, you can, but to understand how, you need to let go of all those ideas you've been given and discover what it really takes. You also need to change your perception about the time commitment necessary to do it.

So, forget about all the survey-taking and network marketing and let's focus on a value-based way of making money: blogging. Starting and running a blog is one of the best ways to provide value to the world and make money online...if you do it right.

In short, here is the most common way to make money online by blogging in 3 steps:

1. Start a blog
2. Run ads on your blog
3. Sell something through your blog

(Again, this is the most common way. There are hundreds of other ways, but for the sake of simplicity let's focus on this method.)

That's really all you need to do. However, making a list like that simplifies the formula too much. In reality, here is a more honest approach:

1. Start a blog about something you care a lot about and that



other people are interested in, too. The more defined the topic, the better.

2. Learn the basics of writing for SEO (search engine optimization) and write articles that rank high on Google. It will take 3-6 months or longer to start seeing ranking results.

3. Start an email list of subscribers and email them new, highly valuable content consistently.

4. Depending on the size of your audience and the amount of competition, you will need to write 50-100 articles or more before you start to run ads. Basically, when your monthly traffic numbers exceed 10,000 visitors, you can start to make money through ads on your website.

5. Write and publish consistently for 2 years, minimum.

6. Add affiliate links to your blog (like Amazon Affiliates) and send readers to those links through articles and resource pages.

7. Create your own product or write a book and start selling it.

If you follow those steps you will make money online, guaranteed. If you continue this process for 5-10 years, you could eventually make a lot of money every month. However, you must know that it will take time to start seeing results, like real money in your bank account. Also, when you do start making money, it will be small amounts that trickle in. It will snowball into a lot more money over time...if you stick with it month after month for several years.

Before you go searching online for how to start a blog, please consider the following advice:

1. If you're just after the money, don't do it.

If your sole goal is to make money, then I strongly suggest not doing it. Why? There is a good chance you will get burnt out when things don't happen soon enough and you'll likely stop and start something else instead. You will make money when you provide value consistently for a while. That means you need to focus on something that you care about yourself – something that you consider valuable.

2. Commit to two years...minimum.

It takes time to rank on Google and to build trust with an audience. People start and stop blogs all the time. Your potential audience will pay more attention to you after they have seen you for a while and you've earned their trust by providing real value to their lives. This is the biggest reason people quit their blog. They don't see results fast enough and start to wonder if they are doing things wrong or if their content isn't very good. Ignore those thoughts and keep going.

3. You will have to grow as a person.

Committing to something for two years or more takes a lot of self-discipline and self-motivation. If you're the type of person who wants a quick fix, easy approach, then you will struggle. Commit to changing your habits and breaking out of old ways of thinking. Start a writing routine that ensures you publish consistently. Set goals and work hard to reach them. Get crystal clear on why you want to make extra money and what you plan to do with it.

Most importantly, you will need to let go of your expectations about how long it should take and how much money you should make.

So, do you have a passion that you love learning about? Are you an expert about something that you could help others get better at? Do you have a hobby that you spend a lot of time on? If you have something valuable to share with the world and are willing to devote a few years to sharing it, then yes, you can make money online.

If you want to (eventually) make money online and start sharing your wisdom or curiosity with the world through a blog, then let us know! At Dock Line Magazine, we have several resources to get you started. If you'd like more info and want these resources sent to you, just send me an email at brian@docklinemagazine.com. Good luck! ♦

MISD Fishing Team Begins New Decade in First Place

By: Mark Hooker

As the first half of the 2019-20 Texas High School Bass Association season came to a close in December on Lake Houston, the MISD Fishing Team could relish in the fact that they would begin the new decade in a familiar spot, First Place in the Houston Division of the THSBA. By finishing in 2nd Place at Lake Houston, the team was able to acquire enough points to break a tie with Brenham for 1st Place. This left your MISD Fishing Team with sole possession of 1st Place, with Brenham lurking in



2nd, and Tomball Memorial in 3rd, out of 23 High Schools in the THSBA Houston Division.

Leading the way for MISD at a stingy Lake Houston was the Team of Fallon Clepper and Wyatt Ford. The newcomers to the Team weighed in one of only 4 five fish limits weighed, out of 144 Individual Teams. By doing so, Clepper and Ford claimed 3rd place, with a total weight of 9.82 pounds. Also doing well for MISD was the team of Jack Haag & Connor Callihan, claiming 13th, and the tandem of Jack Middlebrook following close behind, with a 15th place finish.

It should be no surprise that Fallon and Wyatt are off to a tremendous start, ranking 4th in the Anglers of the Year competition for the Houston Division, as well as being the highest ranked team for MISD. First off, this pair of Freshmen is very talented, and possesses poise beyond their years. They also have an "Ace in the Hole," by having Local Legend Julian Clepper as their Captain.

Also doing well in the Angler of the Year Race is the formidable pair of Dallin Turner and Carson Rennell, currently in 5th overall for the year. "Turner & Hooch" were the best team for MISD in the 2018/19 campaign, leading the Team to a 2nd place finish in both the Conference & Regionals, as well as a 4th place finish, out of 225 High Schools competing in the entire THSBA.

As the squad looks forward to the new decade, they will compete on Toledo Bend on February 15th, followed by a quick turnaround in March, competing on the 7th at Lake Livingston. It will be here that the MISD Fishing Team is hopeful to claim Conference Title number 5, out of 6 years in existence.

Then, on April 11th, MISD will have the honor and distinction of hosting the Regional Tournament on Lake Conroe. Here, the Team looks to earn its 3rd Regional Crown, looking to advance as many Individual Teams to the State Championship, to be held on Lake Belton on May 9th & 10th. It will be there, that the squad looks to claim another State Title. ♦

Fishing ADVENTURES

with Derek Pietsch

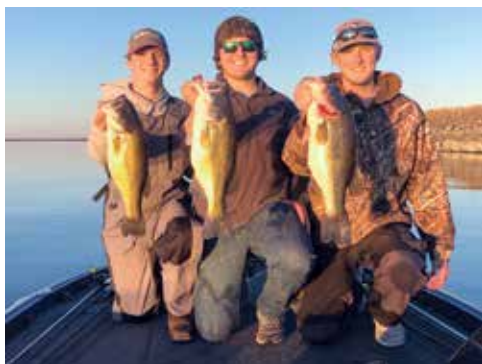


TIME ON THE WATER

The most relaxing time to me is when I am on water. Recently, I have been doing a few other sports on the water. I have started surfing and also duck hunting. I have done these two sports before but just now have really practiced to really get better and enjoy them even more. Hope you enjoy the images from my journey on the water as much as I did.

12-18-19 Lake Tawakoni

I went to meet my friend, Parker at Lake Tawakoni, which is close to Lake Fork. We fished with Garrett, one of his friends from college and Lee Lavesay, he is a pro on the Elite Bassmaster team.



We fished shallow water and I used green pumpkin chatter bait. Lee and the other guys used an Alabama rig, Jerk bait and rattle trap. I ended up catching the biggest fish, which was a 6 pounder. Parker caught 2 fish, Garrett caught one, I caught 5 and Lee caught 5. It was a great day with my friends.

12-22-19 Duck Hunt

I just recently started to learn about duck hunting. Trey has always been an avid duck hunter and now I know why he loves it so much. Before the hunting season started, I helped Taylor build duck blinds. I really enjoyed learning to build them with my friends. We got them all ready and then it was time to hunt. Being out in nature is so fulfilling to me. You are always there at the best times when you duck hunt. It's right when nature wakes up and right before the sun goes down and most creatures settle down for the evening. I watched videos on how to call a duck and I actually got pretty good at it. I sat in the blind and called them for my friends. I learned how they talk on the ground, in flight and when they are ready to fly away when they are in danger. That same day I shot one of the prettiest ducks ever. It was a wood duck, it had so many beautiful colors. Those are hard to find. I shot it down in the creek.

12-29-19 Surfing at Surfside



One of the things that I love to do when I am not fishing is to surf. I got a surfboard for Christmas. My dad used to surf when he was in high school, he was always going to surfside every chance he could. Grant and I went down to Surfside to catch a few waves. I enjoy the peace I have with the water and nature. This also helps build my endurance and my arms for fishing. As you all know when I fish on the beach for the bull reds I swim out to the 3rd sandbar and cast my line and swim back. This is a good way to keep your arms in shape for fishing. It's good for the heart, the soul and helps strengthen my arms. When Trey and I are out fishing at the tournaments we fish till the last second. I know it's very tiring and if you fish hard like we do you cast well over a 1,000 casts a day. Now that will wear your arms out if you are not used to it.

1-4-20 Time to Fish

Trey and I have not had much time to fish over the holidays. We decided to go to Fayette for the day and go fishing. We caught a few nice ones and also 2 on one lure. We always enjoy going there.

1-2-20 Surfing on a Rainy Day

This time I took my mom with me. I know she loves being at the beach so I took her along for the ride. On the way there we stopped at a store to get gas and a man named Chester, a disabled veteran approached me and wanted to talk about fishing with veterans. He told me that he wrote the poem that was in the 911 museum and was raising money by selling decals and t-shirts to buy land with a pond for veterans and their families to come fish. If anyone is interested in supporting the veterans here is the website to order your t-shirt. Custompartriottees.com. He also had a coin from the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation that he received from Chris's wife for supporting the veterans.

When we arrived at the beach it was a dreary day. It was fine because I was going to be in the water anyway. My friend, Collin from school came and met me at the Octagon. This is the same place my dad and his friends would go to surf. It

stayed dreary most of the day but we caught a few waves and were happy. The sun peaked through the clouds briefly, only to disappear a few minutes later. The surf was not that big, but big enough to catch several good rides. It started to rain more in the afternoon and I was getting tired so we packed up and went home. **THROW IT OUT, POP IT IN, SURF ON!**

1-11-20 Hunting Ducks in Matagorda

Trey and I were invited to go to Matagorda to



hunt. We had a great time hunting pintail ducks. ♦



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Article and photos
by Bronwyn Clear,
Certified Texas
Master Naturalist



At about 8" in
length with a 15"
wingspan, Purple
Martins are the
largest swallows in
North America.



Purple Martin Majesty

January and February are the months to thoroughly clean and wash out your Purple Martin houses! The cleaner the house, the better your chances of attracting nesting martins. Soon now, the old males migrate back to Texas from South America and scope out nesting sites. Females and younger birds follow along later, and they eventually all come together in tight little family colonies. There is safety in numbers, and groups roost together, nest together, raise their young together, hunt together and warn each other of predators. If you are lucky enough to have some choose your martin houses, you will enjoy a constant noisy

whirlwind of community activity until the young birds have fledged and they all migrate back to South America in the fall.

Purple Martins are the largest swallows in North America with a 15" wing span but short forked tails. Like all swallows, martins are aerial insectivores that expertly snatch bugs while flying, so you won't see them at your seed feeders. They prefer to nest near water due to the flying insect hatches that swarm up from lakes and ponds. Although some people believe they are great for mosquito control, studies prove martins eat only a few mosquitoes! They tend to fly much higher to



*This handsome purple
fellow is singing to
his love, and she
is considering his
proposal.*

*This one invasive common
house sparrow ran off an
entire family of Purple
Martins. Without some
human intervention he will
keep this entire block of martin
apartments for himself.*



Females & juveniles look similar with white undersides and simpler coloring.



catch their meals.

Unfortunately, there has been a decline in Purple Martin populations over the last few decades due to competing, non-native common house sparrows and starlings. These invasive species take over martin nesting sites, toss martin eggs and kill the chicks in the process. An entire martin condo with a dozen apartments can be forcefully taken over by just one determined male house sparrow!

In general Purple Martin houses have divided apartments, multiple perches, and are on retracting poles. The retracting pole allows the house to be brought down and cleaned before the next season starts. Man-made deterrents such as “sparrow spookers” can be attached to dissuade invasive bird species from destroying martin nests and taking command of the entire house. In addition, many people have had great nesting success by hanging batches of hollow gourds with the proper hole entry size.

For more information consider an excellent resource by Texas Parks and Wildlife. “The Purple Martin and its Management in Texas” by James D. Ray. It can be found online tpwd.texas.gov/publications.

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. Volunteer and get involved! ♦

Colonial birds prefer colonial birdhouses! This type of housing allows Purple Martins to live, nest and hunt together.



Love is in the Air...

Rescue pets make your heart happy!

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

You could be the world's most romantic person, enjoying a lovely evening with your significant other, or happily single. Love works either way and our compassion to give and receive has no boundaries. So before you plan your evening take time to remember all the pets this Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day is a perfect time to introduce yourself to your next "true love" and Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas (ASVT) will help you!

You have to ask yourself sometimes, who is really getting rescued, the animals or us. A pet's love is unconditional and they are so eager to constantly demonstrate how much they adore us.

As with any love that we are fortunate enough to receive we must not take it for granted. Pets have a positive impact on our lives. From unconditional love and friendship to helping with health issues. Pets not only help keep us stay healthy, they make us happy to be alive too.

ASVT has been dedicated to helping the homeless animals of our community since 2009. Every year we make new goals, every year we help more animals in need, and every year we save hundreds of lives. The animals need us and we need you to "Help Us Help them." The variety of different types of animals and the different situations they come from are many.

Puppies arrive by the box full – innocent and hungry. They usually have a good chance of being adopted – others may wait for 3 or 4 months for their special person.

The holiday season brought ASVT two feral Lab mix females that had been on the street all their lives. They were trapped and birthed their puppies the day after being trapped. They were safe in foster homes by this time. Sadly the puppies of one of the females had major health issues and



some had to be pulled and put with other fosters to bottle feed. We did lose some to the illness but mama is doing great. All these puppies are beau-



tiful brown Lab mixes and ready for adoption. The feral moms, Maddy and Kiki are being given love and help for them to learn trust in humans. They will be spayed so no more puppies for them. We



look forward to finding wonderful homes for them.

In the first weeks of January ASVT took in multiple litters of puppies with and without moms to nurture



them. We couldn't do this without our team of fosters.





FOSTER

Fostering is an emotional rollercoaster helping these helpless animals but we are committed to them. ASVT animals are housed in foster homes where they can be socialized and learn to trust humans. Fostering gives an animal a second chance and can be a wonderful life experience for the entire family. Fosters are the unsung heroes of rescue!

We try to be proactive for what we expect, but it can still be overwhelming. We are fortunate to have a partnership with Pet Supplies Plus in Montgomery that has an ASVT Cat Adoption Room. We have adopted out a number of cats and kittens from this venue.

These two cuties are currently at Pet Sup-



plies Plus available for adoption. Be sure to stop to stop by and meet Sofia and Matteo.

ASVT has many cats and kittens in foster homes that are looking for their forever homes. Please consider adopting if you are looking to add a cat or kitten to your family.

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.

On Valentine's Day there are some dangers to pets that go unnoticed. These dangers can be prevented, if these simple safety tips are observed:

- Chocolate is the food for lovers but it is very toxic to dogs and even a small amount can cause serious consequences and even death. Be very careful with all of your chocolate treats and remember to contact your vet immediately if you suspect your pet has gotten into the "sweets."
- Flowers are very romantic but they are also harmful. Certain plants and flowers are toxic to your pets. And the freshness packets that come with some floral arrangements seem quite interesting and even tasty to your cat and dog causing serious stomach upset.
- Planning a nice candle lit dinner for your loved one? That's great but cats and dogs are intrigued by the dancing flames and not only will whiskers get burned but sometimes the hot wax will cause harm.
- Pets love things that sparkle. Diamond bracelets, rings, necklaces, etc. will often end up in your pet's stomach if you're not careful.

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

You can visit our website to sign up to volunteer and/or foster and donate using our DO-

NATE 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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