

Dock Line Magazine

Tomball

February 2020



Ashley Barber
Founder Simply Maven
Marie Kondo
Professional Organizer
Certified KonMari Consultant
Appearing at

Montgomery County **Home** & Outdoor Living **Show**

February 29 & March 1, 2020

Lone Star Convention Center

See page 8



Dead Trees Give New Life

See Page 22

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Dock Line Magazine

Tomball

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FEBRUARY 2020



It's hard to believe we are already in the second month of 2020. February has always been an 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,

Bentley & Ellie 

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To view Dock Line Magazine online, scan this QR code and use it as a shortcut to link to our website using your smart phone's camera.



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Dock Line Magazine

Tomball

Angela Glezman
PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Bentley/Ellie
MANAGING EDITORS

Kelly L. O'Quinn
ART DIRECTOR

Juan Viveros
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/
WEB DEVELOPER**

David Donahoo, Colton Rucker
SEO SPECIALISTS

Stephanie Davis
Jessie Smith
SALES ASSOCIATE

Jessie Smith
D&K Photography
PHOTOGRAPHERS

CONTRIBUTORS:

Dr. Lindsey Thomas, DC

James M. Bright • Bronwyn Clear

Lisa Wolling

Carolyn Corsano Wong

Michael Pittman Images

Derek Pietsch

Brian Sherman

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P.O. Box 174

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Fax: 936-307-1300

E-mail: angela@docklinemagazine.com

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International Friends of Tomball

When: February 1, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: Tomball Public Library (at Lone Star College Tomball) 1st Floor Meeting Room

Admission: Free

International Friends of Tomball Share

Culture - Grow Understanding

Build Community. For more information call Jena at 832-768-0590.

Tomball Farmer's Market

When: February 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Corner of Main St. and Walnut St. in downtown Tomball, TX

Home to growers, craftsmen & artisans the Tomball Farmers Market is a registered nonprofit and works as a cooperative effort of local families dedicated to providing the highest quality food and handmade products to our community. This market was created by farmers and is operated by farmers. We can only exist and attract more farmers through your continued support. For more information call Sarah Starnes at 281-826-2196 or email tomballfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

2nd Saturday at the Depot

When: Saturday, February 8, 2020

Time: 5:00 p.m. – Movie at Dark

Where: Historic Downtown Depot, 201 South Elm St., Tomball, TX 77375; Rainout location – Community Center, 221 Market St.

Admission & Parking - FREE

2nd Saturday at the Depot is a family oriented event held on the second Saturday of every month. Enjoy themed arts and crafts, to games, music and a movie under the stars on the giant inflatable screen. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic dinner and join us for a movie under the stars! For more information call Rosalie Dillon at 281-610-2595.

Heritage Festival

When: Saturday, February 29, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Spring Creek Park, 15012 Brown Rd., Tomball, TX 77377

Join Harris County Precinct 4 for a celebration of Tomball's unique history during the Spring Creek Park Heritage Festival in Tomball. Wander the park grounds as storytellers and historical reenactors bring history to life. View a Civil War reenactment, participate in historical activities, and learn about the diverse cultures of Tomball. Period attire encouraged! ♦

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Photographer Kathy Haas

Montgomery County Home & Outdoor Living Show

February 29 & March 1, 2020

Lone Star Convention Center

The 2nd Annual Montgomery County Home and Outdoor Living Show features appearances by top names in home improvement with over 200 exhibitors sharing products and services. New this year are DIY workshops! Have fun making a floral arrangement with Ashley Wallace of The Tallest Tulip. Board and Brush of Magnolia will work with attendees to build a unique wood home décor project in a fun atmosphere. Create your own and take it home! This is an event you leave with a keepsake!



Ashley Barber, Houston's First Certified KonMari Professional Organizer with Simply Maven, will answer questions one on one with ways to minimize your home to create simplicity. Get rid of the clutter and keep items that bring joy to your life. The KonMari Method is created by Marie Kondo, bestselling author and star of Netflix's hit show, *Tidying Up With Marie Kondo*, and founder of KonMari Media, Inc.



KonMari Gold
Consultant

Simply Maven is an organizational coaching company with a mission to teach others the best ways to let go of their stuff, organize their spaces, and create more time and ease in their lives. Owned by KonMari Specialists, Ashley Barber and Jane

McCullough, we show clients – from busy moms to hard-working professionals – how to create an environment where they can thrive.

"I am a big believer in making space for what matters by choosing things that spark joy in an environment you can thrive in", said Ashley Barber. "I will be available Saturday to meet one on one for your personal organizing questions to create a home you love and brings you joy." The KonMari method of organizing focuses on 'curating' what you will use or that has sentimental connections. Developing a different mindset is a lifestyle change from abundance



to simplicity. "Spend time doing things that matter. If you don't have time to store items correctly, you won't have time to do it over again either". Ashley will present, "Choosing Joy! An Introduction to the KonMari Method" several times during the event.

Outdoor Perfection, the featured landscape exhibitor, will display the newest ways to remodel your yard with 20% off during the show to celebrate 20 years of business.

Talk to experts from landscaping, outdoor living, kitchen and bath remodeling, pools, attics, painters, flooring, bathtubs, skylights, pest/



mosquito control, kitchen accessories, hot tubs, windows/window treatments, roofing, garages, furniture, mattresses and much more.

New this year: Coburn's Kitchen and Bath Showroom will have products found on Pinterest but never in Home Depot or Lowe's including the TOTO Washlet Toilet with warm water cleansing, a rear soft spray, adjustable water pressure, and a self-cleaning wand!



See the latest innovations for your next remodeling project. Warren's Southern Gardens and Warren's Outdoor Living will highlight landscape remodels and Spring gardening ideas. Katie Stavinoha, publisher of the Round Top Antiques Show Guide, will share information on the Roundtop Antique Show with 70 venues and over 4,500 dealers attracting people from across the world for antiques.



Visit the luxury kitchen and bath designs from ABM Cabinets featuring custom cabinets in granite and quartz with amazing fixtures to complement the remodel. See the newest Hunter Douglas window treatments of shades, blinds, shutters, and the newest technology of Powerview Motorization that includes safety features with app control by Simple Elegance.

Additional Professional Speakers appearing at show:

- LIVE broadcast from Randy Lemmon of GardenLine on AM KTRH 740. Meet Randy and get a signed copy of his new book!
- Tom Tynan, host of HomeShow Radio on KTRH 740, until 2pm both days



- Dany Millikin, HomeShow Garden Pro speaking on "Unlocking a Better Lawn"
- Montgomery County Master Gardeners-answering questions one-one
- Brandon Heitzweibel, Landscape Designer, Warren's Outdoor Living "Benefits of using Virtual Reality in a Landscape Architectural Presentation"
- Mary Scalli, President, CEO, of Simple Elegance and Accredited Staging Professional Master sharing information on Hunter Douglas Window Treatments and Home Staging
- Sherwin Williams Color Snap Color Consultants

Je'Nae Boyko, Color Consultant from Sherwin Williams encourages attendees to meet one on one with her team. "Meet your local color consultants from Sherwin Williams, see the 2020 color pallets, see the color of the year and discover how to use the ColorSnap Visualizer App to explore color on your next project."

Visit with local home improvement specialists in many categories, including kitchen, bath, spas, landscaping, patio's, trees, outdoor kitchens, game rooms, flooring, windows, doors, mosquito systems, home-painting, patio furniture, pools, roofing, remodeling contractors, builders, generators, storage solutions, mattresses, blinds and shutters, water systems, air conditioning and heating, garage organization, concrete resurfacing and so much more during the event.

Community Assistance Center (CAC) and Inspiration Ranch are the non-profit organizations spotlighted during the Montgomery County Home and Outdoor Show. CAC is a source of hope for Montgomery County residents experiencing financial crisis in basic needs of housing, utilities, food and clothing with a goal of delivering lifelong solutions. Inspiration Ranch provides equine therapy programs to special need individuals with expertise certified through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb.29 and 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 1 at the Lone Star Convention Center, 9055 Airport Road in Conroe. Tickets for the show are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, and children 12 years and younger free. Visit www.TexwoodShows.com where a downloadable discount coupon for \$2 off admission is available. ♦

Continued on page 10 ➞

Montgomery
County

Home & Outdoor

Lone Star Convention Center

February

Home Décor Workshops! *Create your own and take home!*

Floral Bouquet and Classic DIY Home Decor Pieces. FREE for attendees.

See website for workshop schedule and details



Tips from Organizing, Design and Color Experts



Ashley Barber

Marie Kondo
Professional Organizer
(Certified KonMari
Consultant)



Mary Scalli

Owner Simple
Elegance, Design &
Home Staging
Specialist



In-Home Color Snap Consultants
Sherwin-Williams

Feature Kitchen & Bath by ABM Cabinets



Feature Window Fashions by Simple Elegance



Local Experts.

Door Living Show

February 29 & March 1



TexwoodShows.com

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Ticket Prices
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Randy Lemmon
AM 740 Host of
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AM 610 Host of
HomeShow Garden Pros



Tom Tynan
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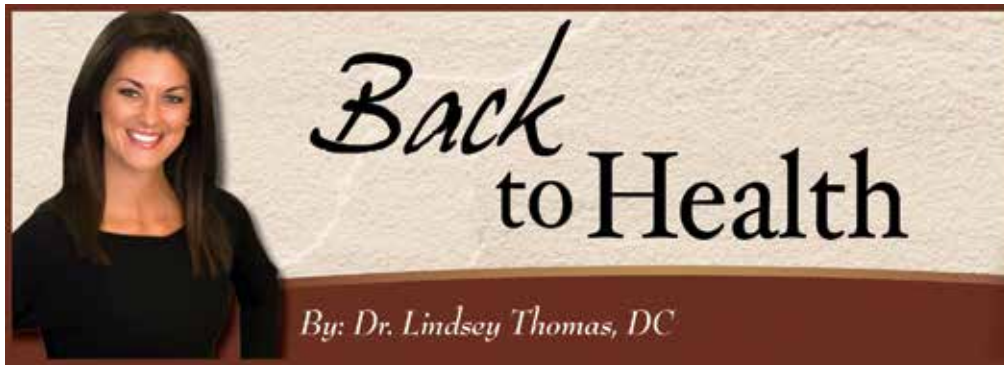
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A New Attitude Towards Flu Season: Chance or Choice?

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. ♦

Women Will Change the World

William Holt has worked with coaching clients and international executives from Chevron, Toyota, Bank of America, Bechtel, Unilever, BP and many others for over 25 years. He has personally trained over 240 executives to become coaches in and outside of their companies. He has won many awards, including the Unilever Silver Award and the Best Practices Aware for an outstanding Coaching Training Program at BP.

It is his love and respect for his mother and his own forced exit from Corporate America that led to a career that speaks to his heart. His mother was a good 50's wife, marginalized, objectified, and passed up. Watching his mom work for a big truck dealership, where even though she admired their success and bowed to male authority, was passed over for promotions and raises. On her last job, she worked tirelessly for "the man" for 22 years, then was fired without a pension plan and was replaced by a younger person whom she had trained.

Similar experiences in his own career led him to pursue a dream in his heart. He refers to himself as a feminist in a male body. He will share more about his mother, his twin girls and his strong life partner, Adriana, so you can see that he is on a mission that serves women. He believes that women are the hope for the future.

About Cy-Fair Express Network (CYFEN)

Now over 60 members strong, Cy-Fair Express Network's vision is to be a community and national leader for the support of professional women by providing a nurturing environment for business development, networking, education and mentoring. Our members have opportunities to pursue excellence and achieve both local and national recognition. CYFEN is part of the national organization of American Business Women's Association (ABWA), for more information go to www.CYFEN.org.

About American Business Women's Association (ABWA)

Founded in 1949, ABWA provides business training and networking opportunities for women of diverse occupations and backgrounds. ABWA has dedicated 60 years to women's education, workplace skills and career development training.

For more information, visit, www.abwa.org. ♦

Luncheon Details

Thursday, February 27th 2020

Networking 11:00 am; Luncheon begins at 11:30 am

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STAGE RIGHT

STAGE RIGHT Presents Sweetheart Show: Thoroughly Modern Millie

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong
Photos by:
Michael Pittman Images

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crichton Theatre, will present *Thoroughly Modern Millie* February 14 – March 1, 2020. The show is directed by Manny Cafeo with New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan, New Music by Jeanine Tesori, Book by Richard Henry Morris and Dick Scanlan, with the original story and screenplay by Richard Morris for the Universal Pictures Film.

The winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* was the 2002 season's most awarded new show



on Broadway! Based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* takes you back to the height of the Jazz Age in New York City, when "moderns," were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, entering the workforce and rewriting the rules of love. This high-spirited musical romp is a delightful valentine to the long-standing spirit of New York City and the people who seek to discover themselves there. Set in 1922, young Millie Dillmount from Kansas comes to New York City in search of a new life for herself. Her grand plan is to find a job as a secretary for a wealthy man and then marry him. However, her plan goes completely awry. The owner of her dingy hotel kidnaps young girls to sell to the Far East, her wealthy boss is slow in proposing marriage and the man she actually falls in love with doesn't have a dime to his name... or so he tells her. A happy ending will prevail, of course. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is a bright, funny, and charming musical comedy full of thundering tap dance numbers and beautiful love songs -- a heart-

Carolyn Wong as Mrs. Meers with Ara Hollyday as Ching Ho and Steve Wong as Bun Foo.
Up to no good.

felt valentine to New York City and the people who love her.

Multi-award winning director Manny Cafeo has assembled a wonderful cast to bring this hilarious musical comedy to the Crighton stage.

CAST

Millie Dillmount.....Lizzie Camp
Jimmy Smith.....Cain Hamilton
Ruth.....Monique Lott
Gloria.....Monae' Lott
Rita.....Lydia Derksen
Alice.....Kristin Conrad
Cora.....Rachel Ochterbeck
Lucille.....Rebekah Ochtebeck
Ethel Peas.....Nicole Kimbrell
Mrs. Meers.....Carolyn Corsano Wong

Choreographer.....Dinah Mahlman
Set Design & Props.....Denise DeBold
Costumes.....Abby Cleverly & Denise DeBold
Hair & Makeup.....Kara Kowalik
Master Carpenter.....Matt Czahor
Light Design.....Steve Wong
Sound Design.....Carolyn Wong
Sound Engineer.....Ashley Anthony
Running Crew.....Deanie Boy, Sean Sears,
Bradley Rice, Jim Murph, Chuck Smith,
Angelie Aggarwal
Playbill.....Brenda Storseth
Producers.....Steve & Carolyn Wong

Stephanie Cleverly
Monique Lott
Monae Lott
Kristin Conrad
Lydia Derksen
Abigail Hudson
Nicole Kimbrell
Dinah Mahlman
Jared Kyle Ball
Rachel Ochterbeck
Rebekah Ochterbeck
Stephanie McCartney

FEATURED DANCERS:

Continued on page 16 ➡



Miss Dorothy and Millie- on the dole mates, soulmates, stormy weather friends

Miss Dorothy Brown.....Madison Mapes
Ching Ho.....Ara Hollyday
Bun Foo.....Steve Wong
Miss Flannery.....Brandy Leigh Pyle
Mr. Trevor Graydon.....Michael R. Martin
Clerk.....Jared Ball
The Pearl Lady.....Dinah Mahlman
Policemen.....Will Radcliffe, Chuck Smith
& Jim Murph
Muzzy Van Hossmere.....Christina Sato
George Gershwin.....Jared Ball
Dorothy Parker.....Kaitlyn Whitmore
Rodney.....Bradley Rice
Kenneth.....Jim Murph
Dishwasher.....Will Radcliffe
Muzzy's Boys.....Jaren Ball, Bradley Rice,
& Sean Sears
Daphne.....Stephanie A. McCartney
Dexter.....Will Radcliffe
Mathilde.....Stephanie Cleverly

CREW

Director.....Manny Cafeo
Assistant to the Director.....Tina Cafeo
Stage Manager.....Jill Villalobos
Music Director.....Ana Guirola-Ladd

**STAGE
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New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan New Music by Jeanine Tesori
Book by Richard Henry Morris & Dick Scanlan
Original Story & Screenplay by Richard Morris
For the Universal Pictures Film
Directed by Manny Cafeo

Feb. 14 - Mar. 1, 2020

Fridays & Saturdays 8 pm, Sundays 2 pm
Saturday matinee 2/29 at 2 pm

Tickets \$17-26 Group discounts available

Tickets: 936-441-SHOW (7469)
Online: www.stage-right.org

Funded in part by The City of Conroe CVB visitconroe.com

By arrangement with Music Theatre International MTISHOWS.com



Michael Martin as Trevor Graydon, Lizzie Camp as Millie and Brandy Pyle as the exasperated Miss Flannery

COSTUME CONTEST

To help get you in the mood of the roaring 20s, we are having a costume contest during the run of the show! All you need to do is dress in 20s attire (1920s!) and take a selfie while attending a performance of the show (picture needs to be taken at the theatre) and post it on our Facebook page (Stage Right of Texas) and Instagram and tag us in the photo #stagerightoftexas and #2020TMMcontest-photo. A winner will be chosen at the end of the run to receive 2 Tickets to Peter Pan and 2 tickets to River Plantation Golf Club Brunch. Get your glam on for a fun night out and a chance to win!

SPOTLIGHT NON-PROFIT

As with every STAGE RIGHT show, we highlight a need in the community and then throw a spotlight on a non-profit that is helping with that need. For Thoroughly Modern

Millie we have chosen Journey Home. Journey Home is a Christ centered non-profit maternity home. They seek to encourage and empower the women who walk through their doors. Journey Home offers a comfortable family environment in which she can learn skills and acquire tools that will help her succeed in life's journey. They offer housing to a woman during her pregnancy and through the child's first year. In addition they will have accommodations for moms who already have a child. Journey Home is Montgomery County's only home for women and their children in crisis pregnancy. To find out how you can help, stop by their information table at our show and/or visit their website www.journeyhometx.org.

TICKETS/INFORMATION

Show dates are February 14 – March 1 - Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays



Christina Sato as Muzzy with Cain Hamilton as Jimmy

at 2 pm and an added matinee on February 29 at 2 pm. Performances will be held at the historic Crighton Theatre at 234 N. Main in downtown Conroe. Ticket prices are \$26 for adults, \$22 for seniors 65 yr and older, \$19 for Groups of 12 or more, and \$17 for youth 16 yr and under. Tickets for the show can be obtained by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-SHOW (7469) or online at www.stage-right.org.

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Dock Line Magazine



Online with Dock Line

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 con-

sider 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! ♦

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Article and photos
by Bronwyn Clear,
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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.



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 shel-



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)



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

ter, 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
- 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 spi-



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.

ders. 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. However, 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". ♦

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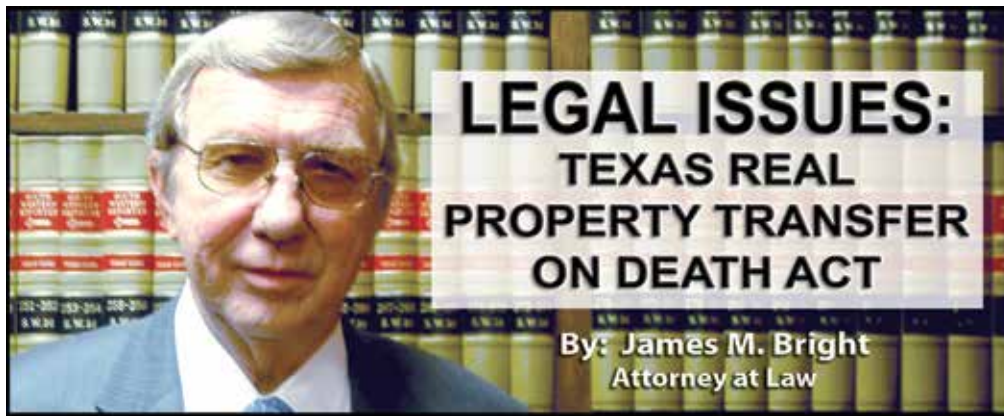
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The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not, nor should it be construed as legal advice.

Effective on September 1, 2015, Texas joined a growing group of other states by passing legislation that can transfer title to real property upon the death of a person without going through probate proceedings. It should be noted that this procedure does not eliminate the need for a Last Will and Testament or for the trust provisions in that Will, but it does fill a long needed niche for those persons who have relatively simple estates and have the ability to pass other assets owned as non-probate assets. This article is dedicated to answering common questions which are anticipated surrounding this new law/estate planning tool.

• **WHAT IS A "TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED?"** - Simply stated, it's a deed which does not take effect until your death. It yields a result similar to a survivorship designation on your bank account. It will automatically pass title to the beneficiaries that you name without the need of a probate proceeding. It is anticipated that this tool will be particularly useful when the only real asset owned by decedent is an interest in real property such as the Homestead.

• **CAN I NAME AN ALTERNATE BENEFICIARY, JUST IN CASE THE PRIMARY BENEFICIARY NAMED HAS PRECEDED ME IN DEATH?** Yes, in a typical situation where a deceased spouse wishes to pass his/her interest in community property to the surviving spouse and then to the children if there is no surviving spouse, this creates a very simple and uncomplicated method of doing so.

• **WHO CAN EXECUTE THIS TYPE OF DEED?** Anyone who holds title to real property in Texas can execute a transfer on death deed.

• **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS TYPE OF DEED TO BE EFFECTIVE?** (Est. §114.055)

1. It must contain the essential elements and formalities of a deed;

2. It must state that the transfer of an interest in real property to the designated beneficiary is to occur at death; and

3. It must be recorded before the transferor's death in the deed records of the County Clerk's office of the county in which the real property is located.

• **IS IT A TESTAMENTARY DOCUMENT?** No, it is a non-testamentary document; therefore, the deed passes title to the real property involved outside of probate. (Est. §114.053)

• **IS IT REVOCABLE?** Yes, if you wish to cancel or otherwise void the deed during your lifetime, it can be done fairly simply through a revocation filed in the real property records with the same formality as the original deed. This is true even if another instrument, such as your Will, contract, or other document contains provisions which have contrary terms. (Est. §114.053)

• **CAN I USE A POWER OF ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE THIS TYPE OF DEED?** No, this is not a power that can be delegated to another person through a power of attorney. (Est. §114.054)

• **WHAT IF MY WILL AND MY TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED ARE DIFFERENT IN THE DISPOSITION OF MY REAL PROPERTY?** A Will may not revoke or supersede a transfer on death deed. Therefore, if your Will gives "Blackacre" to Joe, and your transfer on death deed gives the same "Blackacre" to Sally, the title to "Blackacre" passes to Sally. ((Est. §114.057(b)))

• **WHAT IF I MAKE MY SPOUSE THE BENEFICIARY OF MY TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED AND THEN GET A DIVORCE?** If a marriage between the transferor and a designated beneficiary is dissolved after a transfer on death deed is recorded, a final judgment of the court dissolving the marriage operates to revoke the transfer on death deed to that designated beneficiary, if notice of judgment is recorded before the transferor's death in the records of the County Clerk's office of the

county where the deed is recorded. ((Est. §114.057 (c)))

• **HOW DOES THE COUNTY CLERK DETERMINE WHEN THE PROPERTY TITLE PASSES FROM THE TRANSFEROR TO THE TRANSFEREE?** A copy of the transferor's death certificate should be filed in the County Clerk's office in the county where the property is located in the deed records.

• **MUST I HIRE AN ATTORNEY TO DRAFT THE DEED?** The simple answer is both, yes and no. There is nothing in the law that prevents you from drafting your own legal documents, but most people find out (many in a hard way) that the relatively minor legal cost of performing this service is very small compared to the cost of the litigation and unintended consequences which could ensue from improperly drafted documents.

• **WHAT IF I OUTLIVE ALL THE BENEFICIARIES NAMED IN MY TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED?** If there are no surviving beneficiaries of this transfer on death deed, then the deed shall be deemed to be canceled by you.

It is believed that future cases filed in the court will further clarify this statute. It should further be noted that this relatively new legislation does not replace the need for estate planning--- it only puts another tool in the toolbox of your estate planning attorney when he/she is drafting your Last Will and Testament.

James Bright has been admitted to practice before the Federal Courts for the Southern District of Texas and Eastern District of Texas as well as all of the Justice Courts, Probate Courts, County Courts at Law, District Courts, Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court for the State of Texas. He maintains an office in Houston and by appointment another at 208 McCown Street in the heart of historic Montgomery. Contact may be made by telephone (936) 449-4455 or (281) 586-8277. For more information about wills or probate in Texas, please see-www.houstontxprobate.com. ♦

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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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