

April Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 4, 2011

Where: Trinity United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Note: HPNA general meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for April 4th

- ◆ Appreciation/recognition of those who helped catch the tire slasher
- ◆ Russell Smith of the Austin Child Guidance Center will speak about their programs and services
- ◆ Contributing to the Shipe Mosaic Mural project (vote will be taken)

See You There!

April Nature Programming at Elisabet Ney Museum

Mission Possible: Nature Challenge 2011 Central Texas

Enjoy outdoor activities offered by the Elisabet Ney Museum and other museums, nature centers, preserves and park systems across

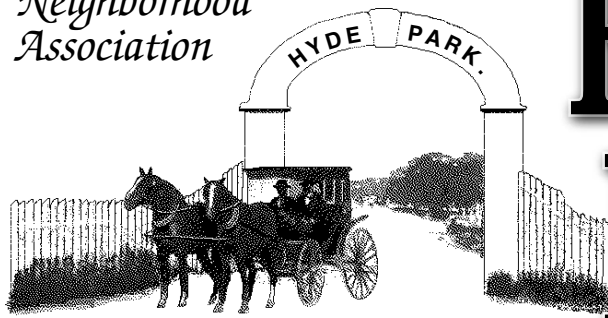
central Texas beginning in April with *Mission Possible: Nature Challenge 2011 Central Texas*.

Offered at participating sites during the months of April, May and June, activities include nature drawing, bug collecting, fishing, hiking and bird identification among many other fun explorations of nature in the central Texas area.

Nature Challenge 2011, a program of the Agri-LIFE Extension Service and Texas Forestry Service of Texas A&M University, is coordinated in the Central Texas area by the Austin Nature and Science Center.

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The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association



Pecan Press

April, 2011 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 37, No. 4

Locavore Extraordinaire Hyde Park's Frontiersman

Ask most Hyde Parkers why they chose to live here, and their reasons are familiar: close-in location, charm, high 'walkability,' and a vibrant neighborhood spirit. But for Grady Stockman, one reason dominated everything: plentiful game.

"The first time I visited here, the trees were full of pecan-fed squirrels," he remembers. "I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. That's high-quality protein."

Stockman was born and raised in the East Texas oil patch, the son of an oilfield worker. When he was 13 years old, his father was disabled by a fall from an oil derrick that broke his back. Stockman began hunting and trapping to help the family survive. Two years later his mother developed Parkinson's Disease, and Stockman had to drop out of school and take a paying job to help with the bills.

As chance would have it, he signed on as a cook's helper at the legendary Roadkill Café outside Hearne ("You kill 'em, we grill 'em.") When Buck Hardesty, the café owner, decided to respond to diners' requests for a cookbook with the café's most popular recipes, he invited young Stockman,



Grady draws a bead. Photo by Rollo Treadway.

only half seriously, to contribute a recipe.

Stockman's recipe for pumpkin and armadillo bisque turned plenty of heads. It led to an invitation from the Survivalist Press to create his own book of recipes. *Backyard Bounty* was the response. It sold over 36,000 copies in hardback

and was awarded four Bowie knives by the Brotherhood of Outdoorsmen, the group's highest rating.

The success of his first book brought an offer from Harper & Row. "They wanted something more urban and domestic, a little less edgy," he laughs. It took two months to pull together *Winged*

Continued on page 4

From the President's Desk:

Thanks to everyone who helped out at It's My Park Day at Shipe! Luckily the weather cooperated pretty well (the wind helped a lot with spreading the dillo dirt but made painting a bit more complicated!) and we had a wonderful group of volunteers as always. Special thanks to Rhonda and Phillip Baird for coordinating this year's event! Thanks also to Mary LaTouf from Book Austin Music, who has donated her services to book music for It's My Park Day at Shipe for several years, and to singer-songwriter Vanessa Lively and her band. Their music made the work go much faster!

We have another volunteer opportunity coming up, Keep Austin Beautiful's Clean Sweep event on April 9th from 9-11 AM. There are more details and you can register to participate on the KAB website: <www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/CleanSweep>

As I write this there are still plenty of slots open for the clean-up of Waller Creek in north Hyde Park. There is also a Bruning Green Clean Sweep event just outside our neighborhood.

Keep Austin Beautiful also has a graffiti abatement program coordinator whom we may want to work with to organize volunteers to reduce graffiti in our neighborhood.

A big thanks to Jeff Coffey for making and distributing fliers announcing the March 10th North Loop Planning Team meeting concerning the temporary closure of Bruning at 51st and 53rd St. Many affected neighbors would not have learned of the meeting in time to be able to participate without his efforts. At the meeting we learned that the rationale for the installation of the light on 51st at Clarkson was the frequency with which people stopped on the railroad tracks before the light. The rationale for the light that replaced the five-way stop at Duval/51st/Bruning was that there were more than five accidents at that intersection in a one-year period (six accidents between January 22, 2008 and January 22, 2009). Gary Schatz, Assistant Director for Traffic Management at the Austin Transportation Dept., has provided us with the crash report and the traffic signal study. I am going to try to get them up on the HPNA website so everyone who is interested can access them easi-

ly. I would also be happy to email them to anyone who requests them. The rationale for the temporary Bruning closure comes from two sources – the North Loop neighborhood plan and the possibility that closing Bruning would simplify the intersection to the point where the signal could be replaced with a flashing red light, improving traffic flow on 51st St. The plan is to close Bruning at those intersections but not between the intersections. It will not be a through street, but that

Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15th of month preceding publication.

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C206-0729

Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G452-5117



stretch can be accessed via other streets. The transportation department is also considering putting a mini-roundabout at the Duval/51st St. intersection. The city will study the effects of the closure during the temporary closure and will determine whether it should be permanently closed. The transportation department acknowledged that communication with affected neighbors needs to be improved. One measure they will take is to put up signs on the affected portion of Bruning announcing the temporary closure at least two weeks before the closure takes place.

The application for a green on city-owned land at 3801 Duval was stalled until recently because the Austin Energy mitigation money that was going to be an important part of the funding was inaccessible to us because an important employee at Austin Energy had retired. Thanks to the efforts of Wanda Penn, Austin Energy has located that money and I am in the process of setting up an Austin Parks Foundation account for it. Once that process is complete we can complete the application.

The original design proposed that the ground be covered partly with decomposed granite and partly with bermuda grass. The neighborhood partnership program staff encouraged us to simplify that by having either decomposed granite or bermuda grass. Currently, we contemplate that in the final application rather than decomposed granite or bermuda grass we will have mulch. Over time we will probably want to add drought-tolerant plants to the green, but putting in mulch for the time being will allow us to focus our volunteer watering efforts on the new trees.

Last but not least, Homes Tour Chair David Connor has been working hard on coordinating the homes tour. Please contact him if you would like to assist him by researching houses, helping publicize the event, volunteering as a docent, etc.

– Lisa Harris
 HPNA President
 <Ljharrisus@yahoo.com>



Correction Department:

The author of the Transportation Report on pages 4 through 7 of the March issue was misidentified. The true author of said article was Jaree Freeman. Thank you for your timely submittal and please accept our apology for attributing your work to someone else.



HANDLE WITH CARE

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment		2010-11 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
Name _____ Phone _____			All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.
Address _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.		Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765	Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of the designated boundaries.
Email _____			
Dues (per person)		Make checks payable to HPNA.	New members, and members who lapse in dues for over six months, are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year			
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member			
Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Date _____			
<i>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</i>			



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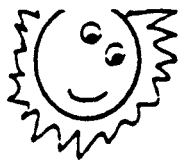
Send in your articles, letters, and photos (but not your poetry*) by the 15th of each month to:

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Austin, TX 78751
<hgthomas@youthlaunch.org>

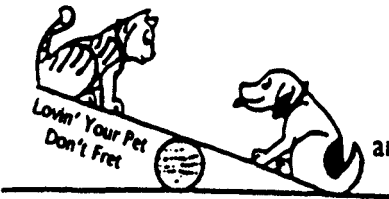
*Send your poems to:

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Note: The Pecan Press will not publish unsigned/unattributed poetry. All poems (even if written under a pen name) must carry a name and address or phone number for identification and verification purposes.



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Hyde Park Frontiersman...

...cont'd from page 1

Abundance: The Avian Feast Awaiting Urban America. Last fall it spent two weeks on the New York Times non-fiction best-seller list and brought numerous speaking engagements, including an appearance on NBC's "Today Show." One of the recipes, stir-fried grackle with pignoli and shitake mushrooms, was named 'Best of Show' at the annual competition of the New Asian Cuisine Society in San Francisco.

Stockman is a particularly robust example of a 'locavore,' a person who is dedicated to eating food that is locally produced. For him, it's a passion rather than a preference. He has committed his career to proving that one can eat locally and well, and settled on Hyde Park as the place for his demonstration project.

"There was already so much here," he said recently over coffee at Quack's. "Garden co-ops, rainwater collection, farmers' markets, composting, solar energy panels...that sort of thing." He signed up for Larry Gilg's "Crude Awakening" group and is on the waiting list for a plot at nearby Sunshine Community Gardens. He already has a very productive 15' x 20' garden behind his Avenue C bungalow, along with a chicken coop and bee hives, and several fruit and nut trees. He harvests crayfish from Waller Creek, brews his own beer, and his wife Abigail makes bread from acorns. Except for coffee and milk and staples like salt and baking soda, he is virtually self-sufficient.

Stockman speaks frequently about "the Crunch." This, he explains, will be the perfect financial storm brought about by the combination of peak oil and the collapse of the American dollar. "If OPEC announced tomorrow that it was only going to accept payment in euros," he said, "the U.S. economy would hit the wall in a week. Ditto, if the Chinese decided to dump their U.S. Treasuries on the market." The Crunch, he fully expects, will see the imploding of the stock market and extreme shortages of food and gasoline. He said transportation, distribution, and packaging are responsible for more than two-thirds of the cost of food in a grocery store. So when the price of oil goes through the roof, grocery store food will be out of reach for most Americans.

"When people get desperate, they'll do anything. They'll turn on each other." Stockman is prepared for that eventuality too, with a well-stocked home arsenal of various long and short firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

What makes Stockman stand out from other locavores is his interest in hunting local wildlife; squirrels, possums, pigeons, grackles, white-winged doves, among others; and preparing them succulently.

At every full moon, Stockman takes a small group of enthusiasts on a possum hunt along Waller Creek. The next full moon will be April 18. The group meets

Continued on following page

at Shipe Park at dusk, wearing sturdy clothes and bringing their hunting piece. "Most of the hunters bring sling shots, but a few bring blow guns," Stockman said. "Truth to tell, we really haven't harvested many possums with blowguns, but we've sure left a mess of trees bristling with darts."

Stockman sells a slingshot of his own design, which he calls the Skwirl-Biter™. It's based on the Wham-O slingshot that was popular in the 1960s. He gets roughed-out blanks of white ash from a supplier in North Carolina, then finishes them in his garage workshop.

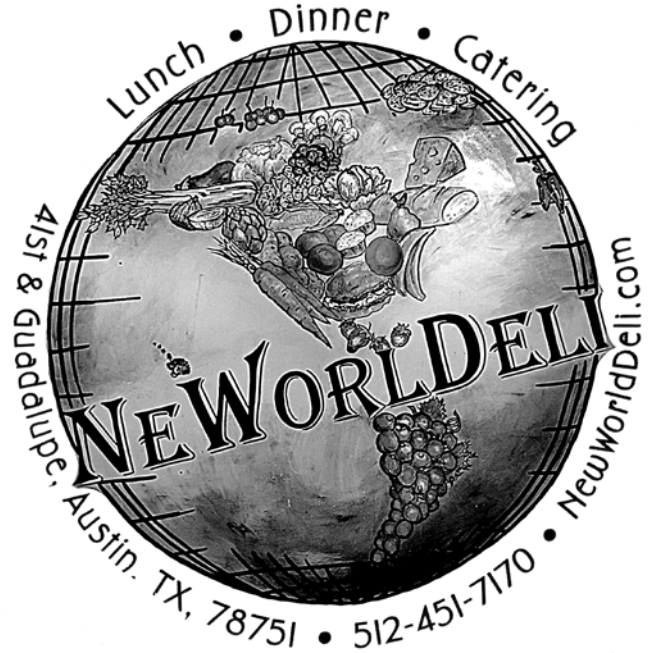
He offers the weapon, with an extra set of surgical tubing bands and 60 quarter-inch steel balls for \$75. Pricey, but it includes two hours of hands-on instruction and the experience of hunting squirrels with Stockman. He said, "Any adult of average strength and coordination can learn to put meat on the table tonight in a couple of hours." About a third of his customers are women.

Daytime hunting is for squirrels, Stockman's favorite. "People look at you funny if you say you're serving squirrel," he said. So he just grills them outdoors and neighbors wander by and ask what smells so good. "I don't tell them what it is; I just offer them a bite. Just one bite, that's all it takes. It does NOT taste 'a little bit like chicken.' It tastes like squirrel and it's delicious."

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RUBY'S B.B.Q

Hyde Park Frontiersman... ...cont'd from page 5

The hunter-writer said he believes in using "the whole squirrel." "My dog Buddy is always excited when I return from a hunt; he knows he's going to get the heads. My wife makes gloves and coin purses from squirrel hides, and my four-year-old son Tucker can play for hours with squirrel tails. As for squirrel paws, they're just tapas for house-cats."

Stockman is not without his critics. Fritz Scholler, the influential food critic of the Chicago Sun-Times, called *Backyard Bounty* "the most egregious culinary travesty since the *Diet of Worms*." Stockman shrugs off such attacks. "Some guys still don't get it. When the Crunch comes, believe me, they'll get it."

Eating local is not just about survival, Stockman contends. "It's just a better way to live, close to the earth and its seasons. When you eat only what you can grow, catch, or kill with your own hands, you never have to worry about obesity, depression, or boredom. Nothing keeps you more aware of your surroundings, or brings you down to your fighting weight faster, than living off the land."

Stockman will give a short demonstration of his shooting skills at the April meeting of the neighborhood association. A Skwirl-Biter™, complete with a 2-hour lesson, will be given away as a door prize, and the author will sign copies of his two books, offered to attendees at a 15 percent discount, following the meeting.

Getting Started

Stockman offered the following websites for those interested in exploring the self-sufficient life style: For sling shots and other urban weapons:

<www.bayouhunters.com/spears_slingshots_and_blowguns.html>
<www.buffalogapoutfitters.com/storefrontprofiles/deluxeSFshop.aspx?sid=1&sfid=110172&c=103397>
<<http://kennesawcutlery.com/Outdoor-Sports/Blowguns-and-Slingshots>>

For possum recipes:

<www.cditchen.com/recipes/recs/628/Baked-Possum84305.shtml>
<<http://bertc.com/subfive/recipes/possum.htm>>
<<http://recipeland.com/recipe/v/Roast-Possum-45600>>

For squirrel recipes:

<www.bowhunting.net/susieq/squirrel.html>
<<http://allrecipes.com//Recipe/Slow-Cooked-Squirrel/Detail.aspx>>
<www.fieldandstream.com/articles/other/recipes/2005/10/online-exclusive-squirrel-recipes>
<www.wildliferecipes.net/Game_recipes/Small_game_recipes/Squirrel_recipes/index.asp>

For pigeon recipes:

<www.food.com/recipe/pigeon-casserole-in-red-wine-sauce-158908>
<<http://www.food.com/recipe/pigeon-with-honey-and-figs-21799>>
<www.cookitsimply.com/recipe-0010-01423j.html>
<www.asianonlinerecipes.com/online_recipes/china/salt_baked_pigeon.php>

– Rollo Treadway

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Ney's April Nature Programs...

...cont'd from page 1

At the Elisabet Ney Museum, participants will learn all about native prairies including what a prairie is, how prairie ecosystems work, how prairies fit in to the cultural landscape of Texas, how and why prairies are important to us today and in the future, and why prairies are particularly important in urban environments.

The Ney's Nature Challenge 2011 activity has been developed in association with the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT). The NPAT also helps develop curriculum and lesson plans to be used by students and teachers visiting the museum on school field trips.

To learn more or to register, go to www.texasnaturechallenge.com

Austin Nature Days 2011


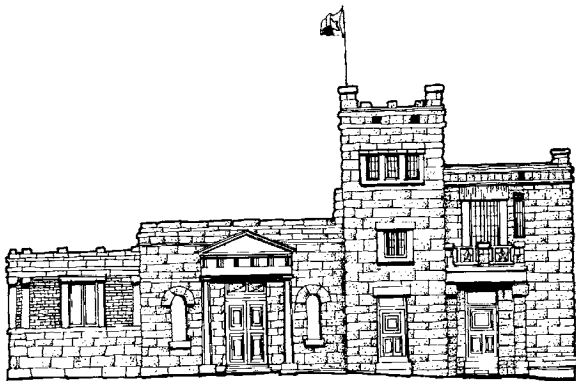
Enjoy Coyote and the Prairie, a program of interactive musical tales with puppets and a two-piece band will be performed by the popular Jungle Jill and the Jaybirds, at the Elisabet Ney Museum on Saturday, April 23, at 10:00 AM. The engaging performance is offered for all ages as part of Austin Nature Days, Austin's annual month long celebration of nature.

Puppeteer Jill Jarboe has been recognized as the Florida Conservation Educator of the Year for her performances in schools throughout Florida. Ms. Jarboe has traveled widely, including South America where she worked with tribes in the Amazon.

The outdoor performance at the Ney is free. For Austin Nature Days programs at other venues, please see www.austinnaturedays.org.

The nature programming at the Elisabet Ney Museum honors Elisabet Ney's life at her Hyde Park studio through experiences that help one connect more closely with the natural world. The programs are free.

We hope you can join us.



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Carpet Beetles

Carpet beetles are pests in warehouses, homes, museums and other locations. Adults can be found outdoors on crape myrtles or shrubs or in bird and rodent nests. When carpet beetles move indoors they can become pests.

Carpet beetle adults are small, round to oval shaped and often brightly colored. Larvae are small, tan and ringed with bands of long hairs.



Carpet beetles like high protein foods, usually animal based, but they can also feed on plant material. They can be found in a variety of locations throughout the

home. In the pantry, you may find them in items such as powdered milk, dried meats (jerky) or pet food. Other areas of the home they can be attracted to include items made from wool, fur or feathers, areas where dead insects accumulate (i.e. light fixtures), leather book bindings, hair, silk or dried plant products. Adults do not feed on animal products; they feed on pollen and nectar.

A program utilizing sanitation, exclusion and insecticides should be able to get a carpet beetle problem under control. Tip for carpet beetles:

- Clean accumulations of hair, dead insects and bird, rodent or wasp nests
- Regular cleaning of rugs, carpets, upholstery, etc. (make sure to get along edges)
- Inspect animal based items (mounted trophy animals, leathers, wools, silks, etc.) once a year to avoid infestations
- Store items in sealed, air-tight containers
- Infested items (if possible, depending on the items) can be heated or cooled to kill any beetles—freeze two weeks at temperatures below 18°F or heat for at least 30 minutes to temperatures above 120°F
- Insecticides should be used as spot treatments—make sure carpet beetles are listed on the label as well as the area/ item you are treating; make sure the product will not stain

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at <www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com>

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Constable's Notebook



April 2011

by Constable Bruce Elfant

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During the last legislative session more than a dozen bills were filed regarding cell phone use while driving that ranged from banning cell phone use while driving, requiring users to be at least 18, prohibiting cell phone use in school zones and requiring hands free use. In the end the legislature banned cell phone use by drivers under 18, by anyone in school zones and school bus drivers while transporting students. This session a dozen bills would prohibit cell phone use while driving, limit the use to hands free and ban texting while driving.

During the interim several Texas cities including Austin passed local ordinances that prohibited texting and internet surfing while driving. Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell said at the time that "multi-tasking while driving is not a good practice." A report of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration appears to back him up with their finding that the number one cause of driver distraction is the use of cell phones which account for 80% of all accidents, far more than drunk drivers which only account for 33% of accidents (some accidents involve distracted driving and alcohol).

Last year the National Safety Council reported that cell phone use was a cause of 1.6 million accidents that included 500,000 injuries and 6,000 fatalities. A recent study by the Virginia Tech Driving Institute found that drivers who resort to texting while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in a collision. It is not that American drivers are unaware of the dangers of using cell phones or sending texts or e-mails while driving. While a survey conducted by the Institute for Highway Safety found that 84% of Americans believe that cell phone use while driving increases the risk of accidents, the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company reported that 73% of Americans talk on cell phones while driving anyway. The same survey found that 84% would support at least some restrictions of cell phone use while driving.

Continued on following page

No states have yet banned all cell phone use while driving, but 30 states have banned text messaging, 28 states banned cell phone use by novice drivers, 18 states prohibit bus drivers from using cell phones while driving and eight states allow only hands-free cell phones. Five states have actually prohibited cities from implementing bans on cell phone use while driving.

It seems likely that the legislature will pass some additional restrictions on cell phone use while driving. Former House Speaker Tom Craddick is motivated to pass HB 243 to ban texting while driving in Texas in part by the recent death of 17-year-old Alexandra Brown who rolled her pickup truck and died on her way to school while texting and driving. In the weeks preceding her death, Alexandra's cell phone indicated that more than 10,000 text messages had been sent or received. Common sense should be enough to convince drivers to avoid distractions and alcohol when driving, but far too many drivers lack common sense and pose real danger to themselves and the rest of us. "I knew she was going to do something big," her father said. "But something as small as a text message ended that."



Hyde Park Poets —

Apology

If I had gone to you
 in your final madness,
 I'd never have come back.
 That was the choice I made,
 the choice I'll live with,
 the choice I'll die with.
 There is a grief too dry
 for tears. There is
 an agony beyond pain
 where the flesh feels nothing,
 the soul feels everything.
 There is a peace that comes
 when all that can be borne
 has been borne and there
 is nothing left but to rest.

— Albert Huffstickler
 October 2000

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Fate

If I step and miss the hole,
 Or trip and miss the fall,
 Or fall and miss the break,
 Or break and do not fail to mend,
 Then, who am I to mind?
 Will I say, "poorly,"
 When asked how do I feel,
 Or shall I reply,
 With all surprise and light,
 "Well, very well, actually,
 In fact, quite well,"
 For I have seen the light;
 I know that it is light
 When there is not darkness
 Visiting my heart,
 Not sitting on my soul,
 When a hand is there to help,
 A smile is there to cheer,
 A nod there to assure,
 Then, all is well
 And I am swell,
 And should you seek to know
 My fate or how I fare,
 I shall answer, with a smile,
 Actually, quite well.

— *Herzele*





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Valerie Mansbendel Home Available



Last year's Hyde Park Homes Tour featured the home of Swiss Woodcarver Peter Mansbendel, on the corner of Avenue F and 39th Street. That same craftsmanship is evident in this house, built in 1934 for Valerie Mansbendel and her husband William T. Williams, Jr., as a wedding present from her father Peter Mansbendel and his wife Clotilde Shipe Mansbendel, who lived next door, and the bride's grandparents, Adele and Monroe Shipe, who lived a block away at Avenue G and 39th Street. Shipe had developed Hyde Park in 1891 as the first planned development in Austin and he named this particular area "Shadow Lawn," as marked by still-present concrete benches.

The interior of the home is enhanced by Peter Mansbendel's design and carvings. Perhaps the most unique feature of the home is the carved stone portraits of Valerie and Bill built into the facade of the home.

"This home holds within it a history of much fun and many happy memories, and the special feeling of knowing it was unique. Family next door and friends who came for short visits, and others for long ones, made it a very special place to grow up," said Mansbendel granddaughter Valerie Williams Brown.

The house is for sale for the first time outside the family. It has three bedrooms, two baths, formal living and dining rooms and a family room. For information, contact

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Hyde Park Poets —

Blessings and Curses- Borges is Gorgeous

The story goes that in those far off times
The souls all sat in circle
Swapping sagas, singing ragas
Determining blessings, curses and such,
Figuring fate and knowing too much.

The entire Universe in collective lives!
But oh, the thickness of those thieves
Stealing lines and scribing times
Framed in soft concerns,
Both magical and mundane.

Set to offer fortune, faith, and fate
To souls about to incarnate,
You'll be pretty. You'll be kind.
You will not be left behind
You will prick your finger, lose your life,

Are blessings not our curses, too?
Be careful what your wishes do.

This story I tell, what I describe,
Conveys a question now inscribed
We are and were in absolute
Communication, remembering that
With curses and blessings we exchange
Faith and fortune, will and fate,
The essential things we easily miss.

— Herzele



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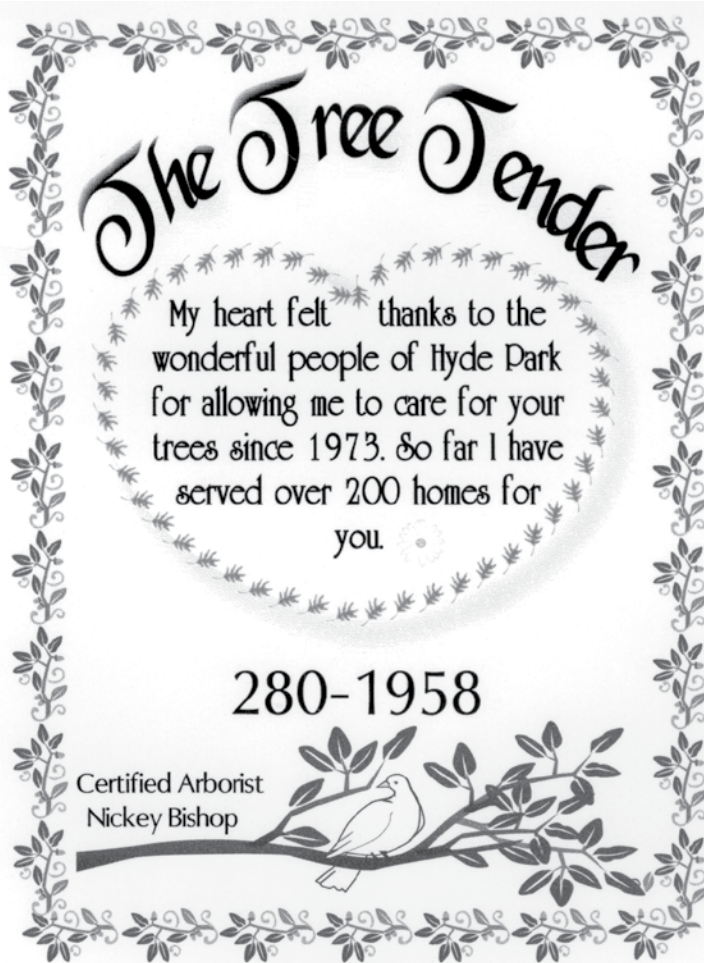
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Battery resets

The cell phone dies without warning,
In its wake, an impaired human
Lost without the appendage,
The constant companion, ever reassuring,
Lifeline to the outside,
Thus beginning the slow, forced
disengagement;
Is this guaranteed constant lifeline
Dead and gone forever?
Hey, it simply needed
A reboot? And a reset.
And, that check engine light, in the car
... a battery disconnect and a reset.

The impaired relationships,
That we wished were otherwise,
Might they not benefit from a reset?
Pull the plug, pull the battery, disconnect, I
say!

Give it a little time, maybe a bit more,
And, then, plug it back in,
Re-engage! Reset!
Clear it of the clogged, confused messages
And convoluted memories,
Communicate to your heart's desire,
Make something of the reset.
Just as the cell phone awoke to a new life
The car, a mirage of an ailing engine no more,
So it be with your mother, your father,
Your friend, your lover, your other,
Your anyone that needs to be,
A constant in your life!

— Niyanta Spelman
January 2, 2011



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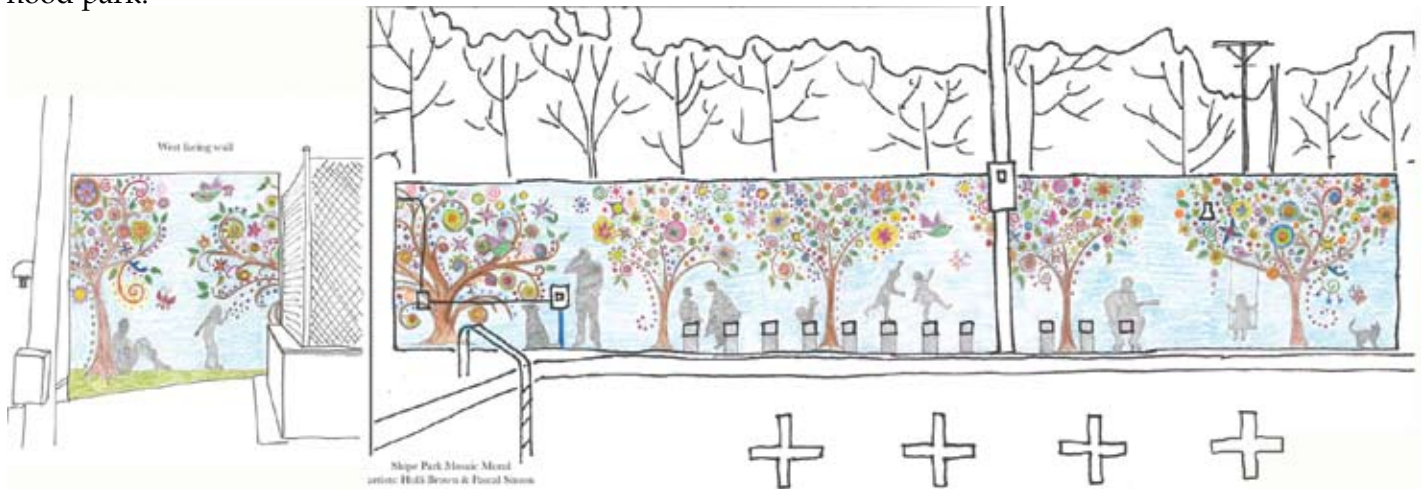
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Budget Proposal for the Shipe Park Mosaic

The following proposal will be discussed and voted upon at the April 4th HPNA Meeting:

Friends of Shipe Park respectfully proposes that the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association re-allocate the unused funds from the tire slasher capture effort to support the Shipe Park Mosaic. This would direct \$5,000 of the neighborhood's current budget to support a permanent art installation which will beautify our neighborhood park.



The planned design for the Shipe Park Mosaic Mural is a fantastical landscape of trees with glittering star burst foliage. Underneath the colorful canopy, silhouettes of children and neighbors enjoy the park. Artistic design by Pascal Simon and Holli Brown.



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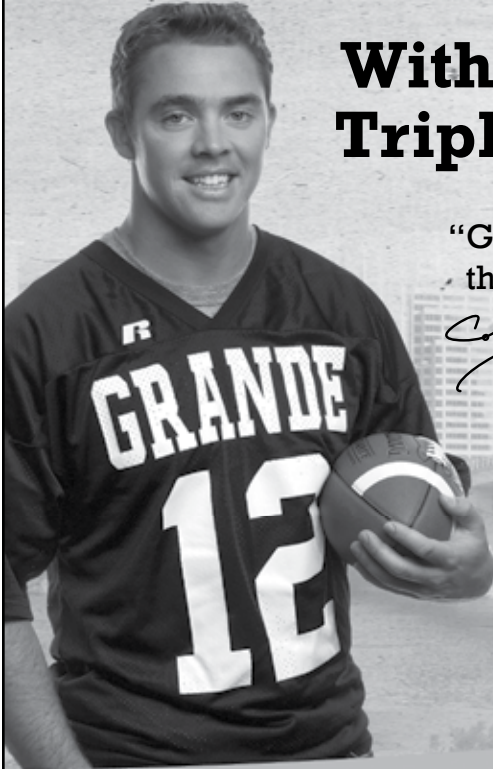
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