



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

MAY - JUNE 2014

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • WWW.ARLINGTONHEIGHTSNA.COM

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS DOGS COMPETE IN WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB SHOW

by Christina Patoski

Going to the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City has always been on Janiel Bodiford's bucket list, but she never dreamed she would show her dogs there. "I've watched Westminster on television ever since I was a kid," says Janiel who has been competing with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniels at dog agility shows for the last ten years. "When Westminster announced that they would be staging, for the first time, The Masters Agility Championship at this year's show, I signed up two of my dogs."

Signing up wasn't as easy as it sounds. After Janiel's dogs met the basic Westminster qualifying requirements, she entered them into a lottery with a random draw to decide which dogs would receive one of the coveted 225 spots to compete. "We didn't make the first cut, but they told us we were high on the waiting list," Janiel explains. "Then, a month later I got an email that both Bentley and Bailee made it."

Bentley, an eleven year-old tri-color male Cavalier, is Janiel's first agility dog. On a lark, Janiel and her daughter who owned a dachshund decided to take their pups to an agility training class in Granbury. "I had shown horses for years and I was kind of tired of that, so I thought dog agility might be fun," says Janiel. Addictive is more like it. Janiel and Bentley started entering agility competitions and the next thing you know, Janiel's got four Cavaliers and has them all in agility training. Today, she drives twice a week for agility classes at PAWSitive Agility Working School in Rhome, Texas.

Dog agility is the fastest growing dog sport in the country and enthusiasm for it is even spreading internationally. Dogs and their handlers run through an obstacle course made up of jumps, pole weaves, and tunnels, and are judged on speed and precision. Dogs run off leash and their handlers communicate with them using only their voice and body movements, but no touching. Each course is different and is set up by the judge, but all use a standard set of obstacles that the dogs have been trained on.

Typically, a course is made up of eighteen obstacles, with two different classes, or courses. The standard agility course is designed to test accuracy of getting through the obstacles which can include an A-frame, a teter, a dog walk, jumps, tunnels and weaves. The Jumpers and Weavers course is set up to test speed. The goal is to get a qualifying score on both which means beating the clock and making no mistakes.

Depending on the dog, it takes about six months of training before they'll be ready to compete. Janiel has trained her dogs by using clicker obedience with treats and toys. "I click first and then reward



AHNA member Janiel Bodiford traveled to New York City in early February with her two Cavalier spaniels, Bailee (left) and Bentley, to compete in the first-ever Masters Agility Championship at Westminster. It was the 138th year of the Annual All Breed Show. (Photo ©Friends FurrEver 2014, courtesy of Janiel Bodiford)

good behavior with food," she explains, but once the dogs are trained she doesn't use either. "We have steak and chicken parties after a competition, though," she confesses. "They get to party even if they didn't score well, because they don't understand scoring!"

One of the most appealing things about agility is that the sport is open to all breeds and even includes a mixed breed category, unlike Westminster's rigorous requirements for their conformation and obedience competitions. "Any dog can do it," Janiel says. "My Cavaliers are probably never going to take first prize in agility because they don't have the speed of a sheltie or border collie, but they can compete within their height class." Janiel prefers agility judging to horse show judging which can be highly subjective. "Sometimes horse judging is based on an opinion, 'I like the way your horse moves'. But, in agility you're either right or wrong, you either do it or you don't."

(Continued on Page 10)



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by AHNA President Jessica Redman

The weather has been so beautiful, especially after the hard winter we just went through. Major street construction projects are still underway in Arlington Heights, including on my own street, where we are all very ready for it to be over. We are all looking forward to our new concrete street--it is going to be great.

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New Neighbor Welcome Bags

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Please send all correspondence to:
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Fort Worth, Texas 76147

The AHNA Executive Board and I continue to work hard to keep you informed of current neighborhood issues. At the January social meeting held at the Fort Worth Firefighters Union Hall, we shared with you "Our Changing Neighborhood", showing graphic details of the demographic changes in Arlington Heights, including how our neighborhood continues to skew younger. In February, Arlington Heights historian and author Juliet George made a power point presentation based on her most recent book which is a history of Camp Bowie Boulevard. In March, Steve Huddleston, Senior Horticulturist with Fort Worth Botanic Garden showed us many examples of interesting plant combinations for our home gardens. In April, Fort Worth Chief of Police Jeff Halstead, Police Chief Abdul Pridgen and FWPD Senior Administrative Services Manager Shallah Graham told us about crime in Fort Worth and the challenges the police department faces. We look forward to hearing what other information you would like us to bring to you. Please share your thoughts with a board member at our next meeting.

As the days get longer, we owe it to each other to be good neighbors and get to know one another enough to at least to wave to one another. As we learned from Chief of Police Jeff Halstead, we need to be A.W.A.R.E.--Aggressively Watching Around Residences Everyday. Let's tackle crime together and be good neighbors at the same time.

One way of doing just that is to mark your calendars for Sunday May 18 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m., for this year's birthday party for our neighborhood fire station at the corner of Camp Bowie Boulevard and Carleton Ave. It's going to be even bigger and better than last year's fabulous party. Read more about it on Page 5 of this newsletter.

See you there!

Neighborhood

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Tom McNutt

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thomas.mcnutt@fortworthtexas.gov

Fort Worth Police

non-emergency

number

817-335-4222

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district7@fortworthtexas.gov

Code Compliance Officer

Cecilia (Ceci) Bell

817-392-2354

817-944-8256

cecilia.bell@fortworthtexas.gov

***The boundaries of
Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association
are the triangle of
Camp Bowie Boulevard on the north
Montgomery Street on the east
and Interstate Highway 30
on the south and west.***

LEARN TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE ON LESS DOLLARS

Come to the AHNA membership meeting on Monday May 19 at 6:30 p.m. and learn how to live on less and spend less, too. Guest speaker Marian Ross's mantra is to help people 'get it' about money. "We can be as rich as we want to be, or at least how much our current income affords to us," according to Ross who helps people figure out how to have their money do all that they need and want, and how to save, too.

As a Tarrant County Extension Agent in Family and Consumer Services, she teaches financial management to reach people who are managing the basics. Come and learn from Ross why a spending and savings plan are vital and why young people should start thinking about retirement earlier than they think. Think green, a different kind of green.

Ross is a graduate of Texas Tech University, with a Masters degree from Texas Women's University. She enjoys helping people improve "when and where they are ready."

DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING PRESENTATION IN JUNE

Are you worn out and broke from trying to keep your yard and garden going during the hot summer months? Glenn Dickerson will show us some interesting xeriscape options that are low maintenance, won't break the bank, and are environmentally sound. Glenn is the guest speaker at the AHNA membership meeting on Monday June 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church.

Glenn's presentation, "Xeriscaping: A Survival Guide", will focus on landscape choices that are both regionally appropriate and that save on water. An avid gardener since childhood, Glenn has been training in the volunteer Texas Master Gardener program where he received his certification this spring. He looks forward to sharing with us his passion for gardening in drought conditions.

CONNECT WITH US!

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Funds in Unrestricted Bank Account
\$6,059.46 - Balance as of 4/30/14

Funds in Restricted Bank Account
\$5,242.75 - Balance as of 4/30/14



AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday May 19, 2014

Monday June 16, 2014

Monday July 21, 2014

6:30pm-7:30pm Every 3rd Monday

Arlington Heights United Methodist Church
4200 Camp Bowie Blvd. (enter on Hillcrest)



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Business card: \$25

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Full Page: \$200

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ALL ABOUT CRIME

As summer approaches, property crimes usually spike. Arlington Heights' Neighborhood Patrol Officer Tom McNutt reminds us that last summer several home burglaries occurred by burglars coming down the alley, entering through the backyard and crawling through the doggie door. What made this modus operandi even more unusual was the burglar usually took food out of the refrigerator and gave it to the dogs to divert them while the burglar stole jewelry and anything else that was easy to carry off.

Officer McNutt alerted us last week that this same scenario is beginning to occur in neighborhoods close to Arlington Heights. The police have video of a young Hispanic male suspect caught in the act. So, keep a look out for strangers in the alleys, especially during the day.

At the April AHNA membership meeting, our guest speaker, Chief of Police Jeff Halstead, told us that crime in Fort Worth was down by 2%, even though there was no increase in resources to fight crime. The most alarming trend is cyber crime which is the FBI's #1 worldwide problem.

Chief Halstead says there are a total of 778 police officers assigned to patrol Fort Worth streets, or about 1.19 officers per 1,000 citizens, better than 2009 when it was 2.1 per thousand.

He said 20-25% of the Fort Worth Police Department is funded by the Crime Control Prevention District (CCPD). CCPD was voted in by citizens for the first time in 1995 following very high crime rates in the 1980s. Funded by revenue from a ½ cent sales tax, CCPD has been renewed by voters for five-year periods in 2000, 2005, 2009, as well as this past May. The CCPD budget for fiscal year 2014 is \$62,320,362.

At any given time, Fort Worth has between 65 to 85 officers on patrol, covering a very large geographic area going all the way up to Denton and all the way down to Burleson. It's little wonder that police response to reports of crime are often dispatched by using a triage method. Fighting crime proactively is up to us, the citizens.

To reduce your chances of becoming a property crime victim, Kala Sloan, a Crime Prevention Specialist with the Fort Worth Police Department, recommends a new product called Cop Dots which is a pen system that uses high-tech tiny micro-dots to mark your valuables with a unique number sequence that can be scanned by police. The dots, which help police find the owners of stolen property, are affordable, about \$30 for 50 of them, and can be purchased at Lowe's or on line. You can apply the dots at home, making it a more convenient and less time-consuming than etching or manually scratching in your driver's license number. The company advertises the product as "DNA for your property".

Kala also recommends the Door Devil as another layer of protection. Fortifying your door frames is a good proactive measure to take since so many burglars gain entry to homes by kicking the door down. Kala was so impressed with the Door Devil, she bought one for every outside door in her house. The Door Devil is affordable, starting at \$59 per door, and is relatively easy to install.

Door Devil representative Tom Fairless was at the April AHNA meeting to demonstrate the product and generously raffled off two free Door Devil kits. The lucky winners were Citizen on Patrol Carol Galt and AHNA member Terry Brightwell.



To reduce your chances of becoming a property crime victim, Kala Sloan, a Crime Prevention Specialist with the Fort Worth Police Department, recommends a new product called Cop Dots which are affordable high-tech micro-dots to mark your valuables. (Photo by Kelly Jo Nial)

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COUNTDOWN TO 100: FIRE STATION 18'S 91ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday May 18 is the date for this year's birthday party for our neighborhood's Fire Station 18, the oldest operating fire station in Fort Worth which turns 100 in 2023. The festivities go from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the fire station, located at 1908 Carleton Avenue at Camp Bowie Boulevard. The family-friendly event is sponsored by Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association in conjunction with Fire Station 18, with underwriting and support from Ben E. Keith, Bluebonnet Bakery, Central Market, Crestline Area Neighborhood Association, Complete Care Camp Bowie, Curly's Custard, Fort Worth Fire Administration, Fort Worth Girls Choir, and Thomas Place Community Center.



This year's birthday party for Arlington Heights' Fire Station 18, which celebrates its 91st year, is set for Sunday May 18, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the fire station. It's a not to be missed community event with attractions for all ages. (Photo by Glen Ellman)

Like last year's birthday party, Carleton Avenue will be closed off to accommodate live music, clowns, and a bounce house, as well as an open house at the fire station and tours of various fire trucks and equipment. A special kid-friendly area, featuring the Fire Safety House, will be expanded this year. Retired station old-timers, Fort Worth Fire Department Battalion chiefs, along with fire trucks and fire-fighting equipment from other stations are scheduled to be at this free party

that is open to the public. Arlington Heights singer-songwriter Kem Anderson will perform beginning at 4 p.m., followed by Arlington Heights band, Bomber Spur.

Horticulturalist Steve Huddleston and local historian Juliet George will be signing and selling their books.

Special Events Come In All Varieties

Indulge your love of nature with BRIT's free family events, special exhibits and Camp BRIT.

May 3 | BRIT's Prairie Day

Join us in celebrating our unique bioregion, the Fort Worth Prairie, with family-friendly events and activities.

May 16 - July 21

Fort Worth ISD Student Teacher Art Show

Come celebrate the working artists of FWISD as this joint student/teacher art show!

June 7 | First Saturday

A free family fun event featuring Saturday Science: Agents of Change, Bella's Story Time, Plant ID, and Farmers Market.

June - August | Camp BRIT™

Dig in, get dirty, and experience outdoor fun at Camp BRIT. Register today at brit.org.

June 14 - August 16

EcoScape Summer Landscape Contest

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APRIL YARD OF THE MONTH

Linda Beaupre first fell in love with cactus and succulents when she was a little girl visiting her grandfather's hillside La Jolla, California garden that was covered with hundreds of varieties of them. From an early age, she was fascinated by the color, texture and shape of them.

Fast forward several decades to 3720 Linden Avenue in Arlington Heights where Linda and her husband, Mike, have created their own special wonderland of 35 different varieties of cactus and succulents which was awarded the AHNA Yard of the Month in April.

Ten years ago, the Beaupre yard was "terrible", until Linda got a vision to create a yard like her grandfather's. "One day, I just started digging up all our grass," she says. "By the time Mike got home from work that day, I had already pulled up three-fourths of it."

Linda credits Cathy "Granny" Davis, who is 90 years old and lives across the street from the Beaupre family, for "lighting the fire" in her about gardening. Cathy who still digs around in her garden "can grow anything," says Linda who enjoys propagating new plants from existing ones and trades plants back and forth with Cathy.



Linda and Mike Beaupre's historic sandstone home at 3720 Linden Avenue is surrounded by a colorful and inviting native, drought-resistant landscape and is AHNA's April Yard of the Month.

"Mike and I share our plants with lots of our friends," according to Linda who gardens 100% organically, relying on her tumbler composter for fertilizer and rain barrels for watering the plants. "We don't use any chemicals because it's important to us to have lots of critters in our yard," Linda explains. "Last year we actually saw a horned frog in our yard!" They make their own compost tea to feed their plants, "they go nuts for it!", according to Linda.

Front and center of the Beaupre's native, drought tolerant yard is an enormous agave which is the grandchild of an agave that is still thriving on the other side of the driveway. Both agaves survived this past winter with no coddling. "Our rule is to let nature take its course, so we don't cover our plants in the winter," explains Linda. "We like the adaptive die-hard plants that can survive tough winters and summers."

This year's bluebonnet bloom at the Beaupre's was a good one. "We get them everywhere, they come up on their own," Linda says because she lets them go to seed after blooming which helps to propagate volunteers throughout the landscape.

Almost all of the plants in the Beaupre yard were purchased at the Botanic Garden's seasonal sales. Blackfoot daisies, Spanish lavender, salvia, yucca and trailing rosemary are interspersed among mounds of Mexican feather grass that Linda never prunes. Prickly pear, chaparral sage, four-nerve daisies, ice plants, ocotillo and Mexican hats provide contrast. When the monarchs are migrating, they cover the Gregg's Blue Mistflower plants. The twelve-year old Desert willow has grown to be 30-feet tall and the butterfly bush at the driveway curb is now as big as a tree.

"We are slowly ridding our yard of grass," Linda says as she points the only patch of it left by their front door. "It's a water hog and it doesn't do well here."

Mike gives credit to Linda as the designer and planner "and I do the grunt work", even though Linda claims to do her share of grunt work, too. Odd as it may seem, Linda admits she loves to weed and gets pleasure cleaning up the yard.



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MAY YARD OF THE MONTH

When Barbara Walling and her husband moved into their house at 1840 Hillcrest Street thirty years ago, the yard was "a wreck". They took a chainsaw and cut down most of the plants and shrubs and started over, putting in Bermuda grass on the sunny south side of the front yard, and St. Augustine under the two enormous elms that came with the house.

"Mr. Mitchell, one of the old-time neighbors, told me that at one time both sides of Hillcrest Street were planted with elms, but a disease came through and killed them all, except for mine," says Barbara who routinely has her elms professionally thinned and lifted to keep the sun coming in and the grass and shrubs underneath them alive.



Most of the action at May's Yard of the Month takes place in the backyard where a profusion of blooming plants can be seen from Lafayette Avenue.

Under the largest elm, Barbara planted hostas, azaleas, elephant ears, ferns, barberry bush, spirea and lilies. After the initial chainsaw mow-down, some of the plants came back and survive today, including two variegated privets and a very tall crape myrtle that Barbara says has never bloomed. The monkey grass, which is over thirty years old, gets trimmed down every spring to encourage fresh growth.

In 2010, Barbara bit the bullet and tore down her worn out detached garage that was leaning into a big mesquite tree. She built a new 1,200 square foot garage which inspired her to re-do the whole backyard which was "awful".

"I never knew much about plants until I started this backyard project," she says. "When you're paying for the plants, you begin to learn." She says she came up with a very ambitious plan of covering the entire backyard with plants. But, after putting in the patio and sidewalks, she realized how many plants it would take to cover what was left and how expensive her plan would be to execute. So, she decided to "just put stuff wherever" and added a few sections of St. Augustine.

Because Barbara couldn't get grass to grow in her backyard, she replaced the dirt there with a mix of compost, peat moss and a little sand. "I use a lot of peat moss," explains Barbara who uses half peat moss for everything she grows. She also uses Archie's compost and potting soil.

One of the most enjoyable features in her backyard, which is easily seen from the side street, is a water fountain. "The birds think this is a sanctuary," she says. "They just fly though here and get in that fountain and drink and bathe."

The idea for the stream of river rocks that spills out of the backyard and onto the street came to Barbara after she noticed that her backyard sloped down towards her house. To direct heavy rains away from her house, she had a trench dug out and filled it smooth rocks, creating essentially a camouflaged French drain.

"This is the first year that everything that I've planted has bloomed, including the clematis that I got as a start from one of last year's Yard of

the Month winners," Barbara says.

Now, Barbara's biggest problem is that she's running out of space for her new plantings. "My neighbors ask me 'where are you going to put that?' but I always manage to find a place for everything."

All AHNA Yard of the Month winners receive a \$25 gift certificate from Archie's Gardenland and a year's membership in AHNA. If you'd like to nominate a yard, even your own, please email Carol Berry at carol_berry@sbcglobal.net.

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BACKYARD CRITTERS: WHERE DID THEY GO?

by Kakkie Cunningham

Spring has finally arrived and the bluebonnets are dying back, replaced with Mexican hat, Indian blanket, coreopsis, Indian paintbrush and the other species that thrive in the summer heat. This past spring brought back some fond childhood memories of back yard critters from my youth. Unfortunately, some of the memories are just that, memories.

A few weeks ago, I did some major trimming in my butterfly garden. Even though I picked up as I went from place to place, when I returned to get my tools, I looked down, saw a stick and reached for it, wondering how I could have missed it. Just as my hand was about to close around the 16-inch twig, it slithered away! I was startled for a split second, but I recovered quickly enough to follow a very healthy snake until it disappeared into a crack in the stone wall. I was absolutely thrilled to discover a sizable, attractive snake was calling my yard home. Over the last couple of years, I have seen a few very small snakes around the yard, but the size and heft of this one made me proud to think that my butterfly garden is truly becoming a habitat that supports such critters, besides being something pretty to look at.

Have you heard the expression "all things are interconnected"? Where are some of the other critters that I grew up with, but never see any more? What happened to red harvester ants? And horned toads? And American toads? What about fireflies? The list could go on and on, but for now let's just address the few I've just mentioned.

Many of us remember the large rusty red ants that lived in our yards and flower beds. Although red harvester ants could impart a rather painful sting when provoked, they are generally not considered a threat. As a child, I was taught to "don't bother them and they won't bother you". Good training that I obeyed after being popped a couple of times and having a slightly allergic reaction. During the 1960's, the prevailing trend was to attempt to obliterate any and all insects and that is exactly what happened. Years later, we realized that those pesticides upset the balances in nature that had existed for eons without the intervention of humans. As a result, red ants were no more, and fleas, chiggers, termites and several other species soon became major nuisances. Without the red harvester ants as a check and balance species, fleas, chiggers and termites took over, becoming invasive and often destructive.

Most of us who grew up in Arlington Heights have fond memories of the popular custom of catching horny toads and keeping them in shoeboxes. I loved to catch those gentle, scary-looking creatures, play with them all day and then release them at night. My dad made sure that I understood the importance of respecting nature and not forcing something to live in a state that was unnatural to its accustomed habitat. So, what happened to this once common backyard critter? The Texas horned lizard's natural habitat, which includes native Texas species of plants, shrubs and trees, has been replaced with "prettier", but more harmful ones that are not only invasive, but choke out most of the beneficial natives, thus destroying the horny toads' important beneficial



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|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
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| Ryan Place | \$110 - \$173 | \$212K - 565K |
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protective cover. Did you know that the horned toads' primary food source is harvester ants? When we poisoned the ants, we were also poisoning the horned toads. Ridding the neighborhood of harvester ants, as well as the natural protective habitat, left the horned toads homeless and starving. The Texas horned lizard has practically disappeared in urban settings and currently is listed as a threatened species in Texas

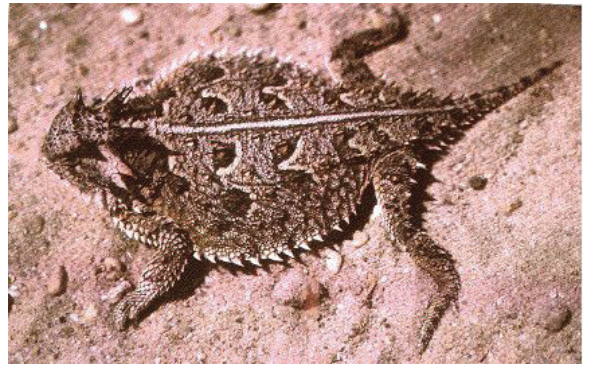
For years, we had a large American toad living in our back yard. He was the size of a saucer and loved to hide in a huge pot of baby toes, an old heritage succulent plant known as Fenestraria, that we had in our back yard. We named him Bismarck and one of his favorite things to do was to rise up from the foliage and croak whenever my mother watered his particular pot. There's no telling how many flying insects Bismarck ate in a day, but I remember that we never had mosquitoes back then. Toads are making a slight comeback today due to the popularity of backyard ponds that contribute to their natural habitat. For years there has been such concern over mosquitoes that any sort of standing water was discouraged. But, did you know that some species of tadpoles devour minute mosquito and water larva as a primary food source when they are very young? Once again, when the essential survival habitat was destroyed, the toad population drastically declined.

Fireflies are also high on my childhood memory list. A few years ago, I heard about a small pocket of them that still existed on Thomas Place, just north of Camp Bowie Boulevard, but they are extremely rare to find in the city these days. Several factors have caused their drastic decline. Light pollution creates confusion with the fireflies' signaling process that allows the beetles to find a mate and reproduce. This factor has affected fireflies all over the world. Urban development has destroyed their beneficial

cover, since tall native grasses are rarely found inside the city limits. These beetles spend the day at the base of tall grasses and then climb to the top at dusk and fly off to

relocate for the next day. Water, even in a small amount, is needed for part of the larval developmental stage. With destruction of habitat, this vital step cannot take place. Until just recently, fireflies were harvested to be used in the biomedical field since their luciferin, the chemical that makes them glow, was used in food testing. That chemical can now be produced synthetically, so thankfully that practice has become unnecessary.

All living things are interconnected. We have lost numerous beneficial species from our everyday world due to the destruction of their habitat. Although progress is necessary, we need to remember that we all share the same space and that everything we do affects our surroundings and the creatures who live there.



Horned toads once proliferated in Arlington Heights backyards, but today are very rarely seen due to loss of habitat and destruction of their primary food source.

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Bailee Bodiford easily beats the clock flying through the agility weaves, but she doesn't always get through them precisely which can automatically result in a "no score". (Photo courtesy of Janiel Bodiford)

Bentley and Bailee are "just regular dogs", not high performance superstars, according to Janiel. "They have fun competing in agility, but they come home, crash, and lay in my lap at night. Border collies are a working breed and they want to have a job. Mine don't care if they have a job or not."

In early February, Janiel and her husband Jerry took Bentley and four year-old Bailee, a Blenheim Cavalier, on their first airplane ride (in the cabin, of course!) for their debut at the Westminster Dog Show. The agility competition was held on the first day of the show at Pier 94 where all the preliminary competitions for Westminster take place.

The agility spectators numbered between 4,000 and 5,000, more than Westminster anticipated which ensures that agility will be a part of next year's show.

Bailee, who Janiel describes as fast but doesn't always hit her marks, placed 11th in her class, just one short of making it to the finals. "It wasn't her fault, it was handler error" Janiel points out. Bentley, who isn't as fast as Bailee, but is more dependable about hitting his marks, made it to the finals in his class, but did not place.

"I've been to a lot of dog shows, but it was fascinating to see this one because there were so many people and dogs in one place," says Janiel. Surprisingly, she had the most fun at her hotel, the Affinia. "Right next to Madison Square Garden where the Westminster finals are, there are two hotels where probably 2,500 dogs were staying," says Janiel.

The Affinia was totally set up for the dogs, with a special area for potty, artificial turf, shavings, treadmills, and a masseuse. Every elevator ride carried four or five other dogs, "all prima donnas who were beautiful, compared to my scallywags." Janiel says her dogs refused to use the indoor facilities, demanding to go outside where it was 23 degrees and there was no grass. "That was the most difficult part of the trip, because Bentley was sniffing everything, including nosing under winos' blankets!"

Another highlight was the lively bar scene at the hotel. "I didn't know anybody from anybody," says Janiel who was surprised how friendly all the dog people were. "We'd be visiting with people in the bar and then the next day we saw them on the floor of the show where they were the finals judges!"

Back home to real life in Fort Worth, Janiel made the decision to officially retire Bailey from agility competition, even though he still competes for fun. "He's getting a little slower, but as long as he wants to keep going, we will," says Janiel. She's started her youngest, 6 month-old Baxter, on agility classes.

"When you first start doing agility, you always want to win, but after a while you realize that that's not the important thing," Janiel concedes. "The important thing is you're having a good time, enjoying your dog and making good memories."



Bentley Bodiford has been competing in agility trials for ten years. His strong suit is getting through the obstacle courses without making a mistake. (Photo © Great Dane Photos 2013, courtesy of Janiel Bodiford)



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RECORD YEAR FOR 2014 COWTOWN CLEANUP



This year's Arlington Heights Cowtown Cleanup crew picked up 26 bags of trash in the neighborhood during the citywide event held on Saturday March 22.
(Photo by Debbie Gentry)

This was the 29th year for the Cowtown Great American Cleanup and it was the biggest one yet. The citywide event was held on Saturday March 22, with a record 5,728 volunteers representing 190 different groups from the community. On that day, a total of approximately 105,000 pounds of trash was collected throughout the city.

This year's Arlington Heights Cowtown Cleanup crew, led by AHNA members Jim and Debbie Gentry, picked up 26 bags of trash in our neighborhood. Some of the more unusual items they picked up were a dead opossum, a 12-inch kitchen knife, and a syringe.

For those who want to sustain the fight against litter throughout the year, there's the new Ten on Tuesday campaign. Go to ReverseLitter.com to sign up and make a pledge to pick up ten trash items every Tuesday. It's easy to make a difference when everyone joins together.

"Neighborhood cleanup is a bit like housework – it's never done, but that doesn't keep us from trying," says AHNA member Jim Gentry who, along with his wife Debbie, led this year's cleanup crew. "Next year, we'll do more advance planning and hit the most needy areas."



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