



# RANCH RECORD

*News For The Residents of  
Blackhorse Ranch*

## UNDERSTANDING WATER QUALITY FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Submitted by David Renniger*

**Question:** What is the most common pollutant in the urban waterways of Harris County, Texas? (Answer below)

### **WATERSHEDS AND WATER QUALITY**

Water quality describes physical and chemical parameters of surface water that impact both human and ecological health within a given watershed. A watershed is a geographic area where flowing water (and everything we put in it) drains into a larger common body of water. It can be the gutter system around your house that flows to the storm sewer, or an entire river basin that collects runoff from surrounding towns, roadways, and green spaces. Everyone lives in watershed. In Texas alone, there are 23 major river basin watersheds, each ultimately flowing into the Gulf of Mexico.

Understanding the relationship between water quality and human activity is the cornerstone of my own transformative experience in becoming NatureSmart. You see, I spent the majority of my career liberally applying pesticides and chemical control products to keep my demanding landscape clients happy and their gardens as green and pest-free as possible. Little did I know that most of these chemicals would eventually find their way into watersheds where they negatively affect everything from contact recreation and fishing areas, stream ecology, human health, and the safety of our drinking water.

### **IMPROVING WATER QUALITY**

Water quality is determined by comparing levels of pollutants like sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and man-made chemicals against baseline levels in a watershed. While this monitoring activity is performed by regulatory agencies and trained experts, here are four areas where you can make a significant contribution to improving water quality in your watershed:

#### **1. Landscapes**

- Choose sustainable landscape practices

- Minimize exposed soil with vegetative cover
- Plant vegetative barriers to filter runoff and trap sediments
- Mulch lawn clippings
- Stop using pesticides and chemical fertilizers

#### **2. Car Care**

- Regularly check for fluid leaks
- Recycle used motor oil
- Wash vehicles at the car wash and not in the driveway

#### **3. Paved Surfaces**

- Sweep/blow driveways, sidewalks and roads
- Don't sweep/blow debris into storm drains
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces

#### **4. Home Care**

- Never pour anything down storm drains
- Carefully store and dispose of cleaners, chemicals, and oil
- Pick up pet waste
- Pump and inspect septic systems regularly

Unfortunately, most major streams in Harris County, Texas are listed on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's 303(d) list, which identifies impaired waters with higher than acceptable values for pollutants. The good news is that implementing the recommendations in these four areas of focus can make a difference and cost nothing more than a simple change in behavior.

**The answer to our question:** E.coli bacteria from fecal contamination is the number one cause of impaired waterways in Harris County, Texas. The bacteria is carried by stormwater runoff that flows into our creeks and streams. You can make an immediate impact by cleaning up pet waste and not allowing them to defecate near stormwater drainage areas.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....911  
 Fire ..... 911  
 Ambulance ..... 911  
 Harris County Sheriff.....713-221-6000  
 Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Dept. Bus. Office .....281-550-6663

### AREA HOSPITALS

Cy-Fair Medical Center ..... 281-897-3300  
 North Cypress Medical Center ..... 281-477-0830  
 Willowbrook Methodist ..... 281-477-1000

### SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD ..... 281-897-4000  
 Warner Elementary School..... 281-213-1645  
 Spillane Middle School ..... 281-213-1645  
 Cy Woods High School..... 281-213-1727  
 Cy Fair High School..... 281-897-4600  
 Cypress Ranch High School ..... 281-373-2300

### PUBLIC SERVICES

Cypress Post Office ..... 281-373-9125  
 Drivers License Info. .... 281-955-1100  
 Harris County Tax .....713-224-1919

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.....888-687-6444  
 Article Submissions ..... [blackhorse@peelinc.com](mailto:blackhorse@peelinc.com)  
 Advertising..... [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com)

### *Don't want to wait for the mail?*

View the current issue of the  
 Ranch Record on the 1st day  
 of each month at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

## Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Ranch Record. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Blackhorse Ranch residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

## Albion Hurricanes FC Soccer Evaluations & Tryouts

Albion Hurricanes FC (AHFC), established in 1989, is leading the way in South Texas youth soccer by inspiring and developing young men and women through world class coaching and innovative techniques, as well as instilling the proper framework, self-esteem, confidence and sportsmanship within our athletes.

Players will be evaluated to determine their technical and tactical abilities by the highly-qualified staff at AHFC. AHFC is proud to offer you various locations in the greater Houston area. Please visit [www.albionhurricanes.org](http://www.albionhurricanes.org) for specific times and dates and to pre-register for our Evaluations & Tryouts.

AHFC office: 713-939-7473

Website: [www.albionhurricanes.org](http://www.albionhurricanes.org)

Questions? Boys: Mark Rufo at [mrufo@albionhurricanes.org](mailto:mrufo@albionhurricanes.org)  
 or call 979-453-1933

Girls: Danny Hill at [dhill@albionhurricanes.org](mailto:dhill@albionhurricanes.org)  
 or call 713-818-7529



full service landscape company

**281-373-0378**



### Landscape Maintenance

Commercial & Residential

### Patios & Walkways

Pavestone \* Flagstone \* Concrete

### Landscape Services

Design & Installation \* Lighting \*  
 Seasonal Flowers \* Drainage \*  
 Sod Installation \* Rock Borders

### Sprinkler Systems

Design \* Installation \* Repairs \*  
 Property Coverage \* Warranty \*  
 Licensed Irrigation #8587

Proudly serving northwest Houston since 1997



Insured for your protection.



[horizon-landscape.com](http://horizon-landscape.com)

## ACTS of Wisdom

Join Us for a day of FUN, FOOD, and GOLF benefiting ACTS of Wisdom, a faith-based, non-profit organization that seeks to provide quality education to children in rural Africa. A drawing for prizes will be held, as well as a silent auction, and raffle for a hand made Ethiopian piece of artwork!!

**FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015**

11:00 am Registration Opens • 1:30 pm Shotgun Start

**Cost:** \$110 Per Person

(If you do not have a foursome, we will pair you with others)

**Includes:** Dinner, Green Fees, Cart, and Range Balls

**Mulligans:** \$5 each or 10 for \$40 (10 max per team)

Raffle Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$25

Hole Sponsorships: Gold \$100, Platinum \$300

**Cypress Lakes Golf Club**

18700 Cypresswood Drive

Cypress, TX 77429

Please Register Online at [www.actsofwisdom.com](http://www.actsofwisdom.com) under the "Get Involved" Link on home page by April 24th! To learn more about our mission and ministry visit us at [www.actsofwisdom.com](http://www.actsofwisdom.com).

ACTS of Wisdom grew out of founder Pastor Brad Otto's experiences in Ethiopia and the Book of Acts where an Ethiopian Eunuch asks the Apostle Philip about Jesus. Philip is stunned that he doesn't know, to which the eunuch replies, "No one has ever taught me." Part of the cycle of poverty is not having access to quality education, or having inadequate supplies for education. 145 million children in the world do not have access to education, yet children still dream of becoming doctors, lawyers, and teachers.

At ACTS of Wisdom we believe every child, everywhere, should have access to education and to teachers willing to take time to teach them. Our hope is that through bettering the education opportunities of children, we might be able to help end the cycle of poverty, and begin to have peace in our world.



## Cypress-Tomball Democrats April Meeting

The next Cypress-Tomball Democrats monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. It will be held at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the meeting and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month. The meetings are open to all, and always feature great fellowship and informative guest speakers. For more information, visit the website at [www.cytomdems.com](http://www.cytomdems.com); contact Glenn Etienne at [cytomdems@yahoo.com](mailto:cytomdems@yahoo.com); or "Like" the club on Facebook.



**Isis McCraw, REALTOR®**

**My area since 2004!**



*Our area is fantastic- the school district, shopping and our growth! If it's time for a change in the same area- I'm here to help with your real estate need!*

The brand many have become accustomed to.  
[isis@isisexperience.com](mailto:isis@isisexperience.com)

*Isis McCraw*

Benevides & Associates Realty

Give Me A Call Today: 713-628-9379



## The Cypress Symphony

The Cypress Symphony hosts its 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala and Season Announcement Dinner presented by Clearwater Utilities at 5pm on April 26, 2015 at the Norris Conference Centers at CityCentre. The evening will include revealing all major works for the 2015/2016 season with introductions by season conductor Jerry Hou, returning after his enthralling performance in January.

Richard Dowling will perform an exclusive recital for gala attendees that will elegantly (or subtly) match the theme of the evening “Stardust” with an emphasis on evening jazz. A Texas native, Dowling is known best for his recordings of American Music and has won the hearts and recognition of many for his performances, including the Houston Tuesday Musical Club Competition and a sold out debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Dowling was the first soloist to appear with the Cypress Symphony in September 2013 at the inaugural concert.

Founder Caroline Ewan comments that “I am thrilled that the symphony is about to embark on its third season. Our mission to enrich and educate the community has the support it needs to expand not only the size of our orchestra, but also the number of communities that we are reaching. Our third season will be our first entre into these two areas. It is a historic and exciting time at the Cypress Symphony.”

The Cypress Symphony, founded by 26-year-old Caroline Ewan, is receiving great support from the northwest Houston community for its energetic performances. The next concert is May 9th at 7PM at the Centrum under the baton of Bohuslav Rattay, Conductor of the El Paso Symphony. Kathy Winkler, violin professor from Rice University, will perform the wonderful “Lark Ascending” by Vaughan-Williams as well as “Appalachian Spring.”

During the fundraising gala, there will be a silent auction presenting items from some of Houston’s best cultural institutions and local artisans. Ms. Ewan and the administrative team will highlight the current status of the Cypress Symphony and present exciting new developments for the 2015/2016 season.

The gala will be held at Norris Conference Centers at CityCentre at 826 Town & Country Blvd, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77024. Tickets for the gala can be purchased online at [www.CypressSymphony.org](http://www.CypressSymphony.org) or by calling (832) 766-0529. Individual seats for this exclusive event are \$60 with discounts for table purchases or priority seating. Additional tickets and upcoming concert information can be found online at:

**[www.CypressSymphony.org](http://www.CypressSymphony.org)**

The Cypress Symphony is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization and member of the League of American Orchestras.



Residential • Investment • Leasing  
Relocation • Land • Property Management

Results in Every Market • 15 Years Experience



**Tiffany Nolan**

Broker Owner

**832.752.2769**

[broker@maddieloweproperties.com](mailto:broker@maddieloweproperties.com)  
[www.har.com/newhomeagent](http://www.har.com/newhomeagent)

**[maddieloweproperties.com](http://maddieloweproperties.com)**

## LIBERTY TAX SERVICE



**Certified Preparers**

**Accuracy Guarantee**

**FREE Estimates**

**Federal & State Tax Returns for  
both Personal and Business  
LLCs, S-Corps, C-Corps,  
Partnerships, Estates and Trust**

**No charge for extra  
copies of returns**

**Year-around Support**

**Personalized Attention**



**26281 NW Fwy, Ste. 650  
Cypress, TX 77429  
281-304-7300**

**LIBERTY TAX 866-871-1040 LibertyTax.com**

# JAY'S IRON WORKS & IRON FENCE PAINTING



- Iron fence and gate painting
- Paint applied by hand to ensure proper thickness and durability
- 3yr warranty in all painted surfaces
  - Iron fence/gate repair
  - New install of fence/gates
- Access gate repair and install
- Million dollar insured



BEFORE

AFTER

832.344.7510 · [WWW.JAYSIRONWORKS.COM](http://WWW.JAYSIRONWORKS.COM) · [facebook](#) · You Tube

## Northwest Harris County Aggie Moms to Award Scholarships

Please join us for the Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, beginning with refreshments and social time at 6:30 followed by meeting at 7:15 p.m. The meeting is held at the Houston Distributing Company, 7100 High Life Drive, conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the intersection of High Life Drive and Cutten Road. You will want to find out which deserving students will be awarded the 2015 scholarship awards and learn how these scholarships impact the Aggie experience. NWHC Aggie Moms Club members will also vote on which Texas A&M student organizations they would like the club to support. All meetings are open to the public and prospective students; current students and Aggie families are always welcome!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Parents Weekend- April 17-18th-Parents' Weekend is a cherished Aggie tradition honoring Aggie moms and dads since 1919. Among the many weekend activities is the popular Aggie Moms' Boutique, a gift and craft fair held on April 17 and 18 in the Memorial Student Center at Texas A&M. Check out our booth! We will be selling our Tradition beads! For more information on the scheduled parents weekend events go to <http://parentsweekend.tamu.edu/node/38>.

Aggie Muster-April 21st- Aggies around the world will join together for Muster, held at Reed Arena beginning at 7PM to honor Aggies who are no longer among us. Muster is a day celebrating the camaraderie and the friendships, the triumphs and the defeats, the legacies and the impact that Texas A&M University has made, and continues to make, in all of our lives.

The Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club meets August thru May on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:15 pm at 7100 High Life Drive. For more information on monthly speakers or upcoming events visit our website at [www.nwhcaggie moms.org](http://www.nwhcaggie moms.org) or contact Connie Pritchard, Club President at [pritchardg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pritchardg@sbcglobal.net)



**GO GREEN  
GO PAPERLESS**

Sign up to get this newsletter in your inbox! Visit [peelinc.com](http://peelinc.com) for details.

## BUSINESS CLASSIFIED

### BOARDYOUR HORSE AT 2K STABLES IN HOCKLEY

We offer hunter/jumper and eventing lessons or haul in and ride on our wooded property. We are also a Pony Club Riding Center. [2kstables.com](http://2kstables.com) or look for us on FACEBOOK. 281-382-8423; [mduggar@yahoo.com](mailto:mduggar@yahoo.com).

**Classified Ads:** Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 1-888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).



**Come grow with us!**  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School

*"Living, loving, and learning in Christ and the Church."*  
6646 Addicks Satsuma Rd.  
Houston, TX 77084  
281-463-1444  
[www.seasc.org](http://www.seasc.org)

**Now Registering**  
2014-2015  
School year

EXCELLENT CURRICULUM • ATHLETICS  
COMPUTER & SCIENCE LABS  
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



From design to print to mail,  
**Quality Printing**  
can help you with all of your printing needs!



Call today for more info  
**512.263.9181**

Or visit our website at:  
[www.QualityPrintingofAustin.com](http://www.QualityPrintingofAustin.com)

**NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE**

The Ranch Record is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use the Ranch Record Newsletter contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

**DISCLAIMER:** Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

\*The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

\* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

\* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.



**IF THIS LOOKS  
PAINFUL TO YOUR KNEES ...**

Then Your Knees Should Consider **MAKO**plasty®

Cy-Fair Hospital is the first in northwest Houston to offer MAKOplasty.®

MAKOplasty® partial knee re-surfacing is a minimally invasive procedure for knee osteoarthritis powered by highly advanced, surgeon-controlled robotic arm technology—saving as much of your original knee as possible.

**BENEFITS MAY INCLUDE:**

- Rapid recovery and quicker return to an active lifestyle
- Most go home the same day
- More natural feeling knee
- Smaller incision
- Less scarring

**Cypress Fairbanks  
Medical Center Hospital**



**For more information or to  
attend a free seminar, call  
281.377.6250**

10655 Steepletop Drive  
Houston, Texas 77065



**PEEL, INC.**

308 Meadowlark St. South  
Lakeway, TX 78734

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PEEL, INC.

BK

**Success**

THINK → IDEA → TRY → DO → DO AGAIN → AND AGAIN → KEEP ON DOING → Success



**PEEL, INC.**  
community newsletters

[www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)  
**512.263.9181**