

# News from the Lion's Den

August 2016



## We Learn About Possums

Lion Julie Blaiies gave a wonderful presentation about possums. She rehabilitates abandoned and orphaned possums through Texas Wildlife Recovery Center. She shared many very interesting facts about this little known mammal: they are the only marsupials, and the only mammals with a prehensile tail in North America, they have more teeth than any other mammal, they are nocturnal, they have a much lower body temperature which prevents them from harboring diseases such as rabies, parvo, distemper, etc, the female gives birth after a gestation period of only 13 days, babies are called joeys, they are the size of a bean when born, crawl up her abdomen into the pouch, which has a vertical slit rather than horizontal as with other marsupials, 12 teats are arranged in a circle, the joeys stay in the pouch for 50 days or more then they cling to the mom's fur for the next 50 days or so, adult possums weigh between 3-5 pounds but can get as large as 15 pounds, they eat a variety of foods such as plants, bugs, small snakes, mice, and are very beneficial in your yard, they nest in old abandoned nests in trees, but rotate between 3-4 different nesting sights, are not aggressive

to humans or other animals, have opposable thumbs but do not sit up on their hind feet like raccoons, are great climbers but cannot jump, and their most unusual defense mechanism is the ability to "play dead", where their breathing slows and predators think they are really dead and leave them alone. Lion Julie likes caring for baby possums because they are easier than most other small mammals because they don't have be to fed as often and they eat a variety of foods. She explained how siblings are marked with different colored nail polish on their tails to keep track of each animal's daily weight. Very small possums have to be tube fed, then syringe fed, then they are taught to lap food from a small plastic lid. As their mother would have done, they need stimulation for elimination after eating. Possums urinate and defecate in water, not in their sleeping or eating areas. Lion Julie explained that the smaller possums are kept in cages in the house, and as they grow, they are placed in a special outdoor cage for them to adjust to being outside. When they reach a certain size, and are capable of catching their own food, they are released in a wooded area with a stream. She has a permit from the state game warden to care for wild animals. Explicit records are kept on each animal, from the time she received it until it is released back into the wild. Everyone really enjoyed Lion Julie's program, despite the fact that the projector would not cooperate.





Pre-release Caging Built by Eagle Scouts



Rehabber's Essentials



### *President Paul Presented Award*

Lion Chuck presented a Lion's Eye Bank of Texas Ambassador Award to President Paul for his excellent year as President 2015-2016.



### **Pageant Participant**

Kylie Miller, a 10 year old, participated in the Preteen National American Miss Pageant this summer. Kylie and her mom came to our Lions Club this past April seeking sponsorship for this event. Kylie amazed everyone with her grace and poise as she spoke about her dreams of entering this pageant and using her Type 1 Diabetes as her platform for her speeches. Kylie's mom said that Kylie has a blast at the Pageant. "Kylie won Ms. Personality of her age group. That is an award, similar to Ms. Congeniality, where the contestants elect Ms. Personality. She didn't place in the court but had a blast. We got lots of good info out on Type 1 and educated a lot of the girls in the competition with her. Congratulations Kylie!!"



Kylie and her escort father



Kylie Miller at Preteen National American Miss Pageant

## Upcoming Events

Tues. Aug. 9, 2016 at 7PM, regular Lions Club meeting. Guest speaker will be from the **Houston Light House for the Blind**.

Sat. Aug. 13, **Houston Royal Oaks Lions Club Back Pack Project**, held at Plaza Americas, 7500 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, 77036, 8AM to 2PM. Backpacks, school supplies, socks, etc will be distributed to children entering grades K-5. We will provide KidSight Vision Screening services. Come and assist.

Fri. Aug. 19, 8-9PM, free performance by **Magician Robert Berry**, at the Lions' Den. Please let Lion Sandy know if you are coming, as space is limited. (281-550-2798). Guests are invited. We will be inviting other Lions Club members in our Zone and Region.

Tues. Aug. 23, 2016 at 7PM, regular Lions Club meeting. Guest speaker will be from **Camp Hope** talking about PTSD Foundation of America.

Saturday Sept. 10, 9AM to 5PM, **Shop Till You Drop** event at the Berry Center, sponsored by the Cy-Fair Women's Association. We will have a booth to promote our Lions Club and will be doing vision screening on children at the event. We need Lions in Lions Club vest or Club shirt to work the booth. This is a great outreach to our community. Please plan on assisting.

Mon. Sept. 12, 2016 at the Berry Center Theater, 7PM, **Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club Children's Magic Show**, with magician C J Johnson. Tickets can be purchased from Lions Club members. This is a fun event for kids of all ages. Club members are asked to be there at 6:30PM to sell tickets, take tickets at the door, and thank people after the show. Wear Lions attire.

Tues. Sept. 13, 2016, regular Lions Club meeting. Our **handicapped campers** and their families will be our guests and tell us about their experiences at Texas Lions Camp. This is one meeting you don't want to miss.

Tues. Sept. 27, 2016, 7PM, regular Lions Club meeting. Our **diabetic campers** and their families will be our guests. Please join us in hearing about the camp experiences of these kids and their parents.

Friday Sept. 30 and Sat. Oct. 1, **packet pick up** at Houston Cycling Center on Jones Road at Hwy 290 from 10A-5P. This is when cyclist come to pick up their T-shirts and get their ride numbers, or to sign up to do the ride. We need Lions to work during these hours. Please contact Lion Chuck at 281-685-6322 to schedule.

Sunday Oct. 2, 2016, **Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club Biking for Sight Annual Bike Ride**, starts at Montgomery High School Athletic Complex in Montgomery, TX. Workers need to be there by 6:30AM. We will need people to work registration tables, to place signs, to drive around the course and pick up stranded riders, to move supplies from rest stop to rest stop, etc. This is a full Club project and everyone is to help. Please contact Lion Chuck at 281-685-6322 to schedule your favorite job.

Tues. Oct. 11, 2016 at 7PM, regular Lions Club meeting, guest will be from **Cypress Assistance Ministries**.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday Aug. 14 to Lion Milly Spencer, Aug. 17 to Lion Amanda Crane, Aug. 16 to Lion Becca Franco, Aug. 28 to Lion Corene Henry,