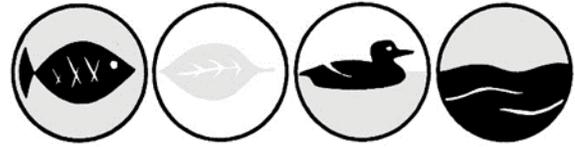


N.I.C.C.



May 2017 Newsletter

San Antonio, Texas – Bravo



Something really cute happened in this week. Michael R. is an accounting clerk at Frost Bank and works there in a second story office. Several weeks ago, he watched a mother duck choose the concrete awning outside his window as the unlikely place to build a nest above the sidewalk. The mallard laid ten eggs in a nest in the corner of the planter that is perched over 10 feet in the air. She dutifully kept the eggs warm for weeks, and Monday afternoon all of her ten ducklings hatched.

Michael worried all night how the momma duck was going to get those babies safely off their perch in a busy downtown, urban environment to take to water, which typically happens in the first 48 hours of a duck hatching. Tuesday morning, Michael watched the mother duck encourage her babies to the edge of the perch with the intent to show them how to jump off. Office work came to a standstill as everyone gathered to watch.



The mother flew down below and started quacking to her babies above. In disbelief Michael watched as the first fuzzy newborn trustingly toddled to the edge and astonishingly leapt into thin air, crashing onto the cement below. Michael couldn't stand to watch this risky effort nine more times! He dashed out of his office and ran down the stairs to the sidewalk where the first obedient duckling, near its mother, was resting in a stupor after the near-fatal fall. Michael stood out of sight under the awning-planter, ready to help.

As the second one took the plunge, Michael jumped forward and caught it with his bare hands before it hit the concrete. Safe and sound, he set it down by its momma and the other stunned sibling, still recovering from that painful leap. (The momma must have sensed that Michael was trying to help her babies.)

One by one the babies continued to jump. Each time Michael hid under the awning just to reach out in the nick of time as the duckling made its free fall. At the scene the busy downtown sidewalk traffic came to a standstill. Time after time, Michael was able to catch the remaining eight and set them by their approving mother.



At this point Michael realized the duck family had only made part of its dangerous journey. They had two full blocks to walk across traffic, crosswalks, curbs and past pedestrians to get to the closest open water, the San Antonio River site of the famed "River Walk." The onlooking office secretaries and several San Antonio police officers joined in. An empty copy-paper box was brought to collect the babies. They carefully corralled them, with the mother's approval, and loaded them in the container. Michael held the box low enough for the mom to see her Brood. He then slowly navigated through the downtown streets toward the San Antonio River. The mother waddled behind and kept her babies in sight, all the way.



As they reached the river, the mother took over and passed him, jumping in the river and quacking loudly. At the water's edge, Michael tipped the box and helped shepherd the babies toward the water and to the waiting mother after their adventurous ride. All ten darling ducklings safely made it into the water and paddled up snugly to momma.



Michael said the mom swam in circles, looking back toward the beaming bank bookkeeper, and proudly quacking.



Like all of us in the big times in our life, they could not have made it alone without lots of helping hands

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY SATURDAY MAY 6 10 AM



It's that time of year again when NICC volunteers grab their gloves and head for the highway. Have you noticed NICC's name on the two signs on Grass Lake Road between Rt. 83 and Rt. 59? NICC signed an agreement each year with the Lake County Division of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway program, to help clear debris on this section of highway. This year will be our 15th year to participate in this program. We would like it to have all volunteers meet at the corner of Rt. 83 & Grass Lake Rd next to Triangle Bait and Marine at 10 am.

Spring cleanup at the club grounds, will follow after the highway cleanup. With winter weather behind us, the grounds at NICC need a good facelift to clear fallen branches, leaves and trimming of dead branches on several trees. One of our plans is to give the house a good cleaning after being closed up since November. So, there's something to do for everyone.

Lunch will be served to all the volunteers. This is a perfect time to give some of your yearly 5 hours of time to the club. We understand some members are unable to help with the cleanup of the highway and the club grounds. Come on out and meet some of our members and enjoy.



Elections will be held on **May 8** at the combined Board/General meeting at 7 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 6** Adopt-A-Highway 10 am
NICC grounds cleanup at NICC 11:00 am
- May 8** General/board meeting & election of officers at NICC property 7pm
- June 12** General/board meeting at NICC property 7pm

July 22 NICC will be having a Family Day Event open to the public at the club grounds from 10:00 to 2:00. This event will allow the entire family to participate in various outdoor activities. Planning is still ongoing. We are open for ideas to help make this event a successful fundraiser. Send your ideas to Leonard at leonard8517@gmail.com

If you see someone without a smile, give them yours.

