

VOLUME No. 2009
ISSUE No. 4
APRIL 2009

PROFESSIONAL BULLETIN
FOR THE
BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
PARALEGALS



STATISTICS:

- Membership - 74 Members
- Treasurer Report as of
February 28, 2008 \$5230.00

FEATURED ARTICLE:

PAGE NO. 4
"CARE FREE IN COSTA RICA"
By: Faith Mullins



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Easter everyone! I hope that you all have been enjoying the spring weather in between these chilly cold spells.

I have just returned from the annual TAPA meeting in Texarkana. TAPA stands for Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations. It was a very good conference. Members from each association give a report to the rest of the group about what their association has done over the last year. It gives us a chance to learn new ideas and to brainstorm problems that arise in the administration of the association. I came away with a great many suggestions that I hope we will get to put into play over the next year.

We will be accepting nominations until Tuesday, April 14th for officer positions. If you wish to nominate someone for a position, please email me your nomination as soon as possible. You will definitely want to be present at our meeting on April 16th to vote for your 2009-2010 board. Nominees will be introduced before the voting begins and the votes will be tallied before the end of the hour.

Invitations to the 2009 Law Day Banquet, May 7, 2009, have been mailed. If you have not yet received your invitation, please contact me, Jina Boydston or Cynthia Champion. RSVP's are due May 4, 2009.

Brenda

BOARD MEETINGS will be held at Fuddruckers in Killeen from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

MAY 14, 2009

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held in Judge Mischian's courtroom from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

APRIL 16, 2009

BCBA PARALEGALS

'08-'09 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Brenda Colvin

VICE PRESIDENT – Sherry Gonzalez

SECRETARY – Cindi Evetts

TREASURER – Rene Murray

PARLIAMENTARIAN – Susie Ivy

COMMITTEE LIAISON – Billie Sue Scales

HISTORIAN – Pat Simecek

bcba_lad@yahoo.com

PINE TREE CROSSES

Last Spring on a Sunday afternoon we took one of our "nowhere" drives thru the country. My husband was quietly driving along some back roads. I was occupied in the front passenger seat watching out the window as the scenery went by. I noticed out of the corner of my eye that my husband was straining to look out my window. This startled me, since his eyes should be on the road in front of him. I asked him what he was looking at out the windows, and he quietly replied, "Nothing." He could have said he was looking for pine tree crosses for Easter. His eyes went back to the road in front of him. After a few minutes, I looked over at my husband and noticed a tear running down his cheek. I asked him what was wrong. This time he told me, "I was just thinking about Pop and a story he had once told me." Of course, because it had to do with his Pop I wanted to know the story, so I asked him to share Pop's story with me. He said, "When I was about 8 years old, Pop and I were out fishing and that's when he told me that the pine trees know when it is Easter." I had no idea what he meant by that, so I pressed him for more information. He continued on... "The Pine trees start their new growth in the weeks before Easter ~ if you look at the tops of the Pine trees two weeks before Easter, you will see the yellow shoots. As the days get closer to Easter Sunday, the tallest shoot will branch off and form pine tree crosses for Easter. By the time Easter Sunday comes around, you will see that most of the Pine trees will have small yellow crosses on all of the tallest pine shoots." I turned to look out the window and I couldn't believe my eyes. It was a week before Easter, and you could see all of the pine trees with the tall yellow shoots stretching to Heaven. The tallest ones shone in the sunlight like rows of tiny golden crosses.



This pine tree crosses for Easter story was written by unknown author.

JESUS KNOCKING...

A nurse on the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones' chests, would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own hearts. Their eyes would always light up with awe. But she never got a response to equal four-year-old David's. Gently he tucked the stethoscope in his ears and placed the disk over his heart. "Listen," she said, "What do you suppose that is?" He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled line and looked up as if lost in mystery of the strange tap-tap-tapping deed in his chest. Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin. "Is that Jesus knocking?"

BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009
START TIME: 1:00 P.M.
STONETREE GOLF CLUB IN KILLEEN
www.golfkilleen.com
\$60.00 PER GOLFER



REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DUE BY APRIL 13
QUESTIONS? CONTACT MARK DANFORD
mark.danford@co.bell.tx.us

2009 Bell County Law Day Banquet Thursday, May 7, 2009

6:00 p.m. Social
 6:30 p.m. Dinner
 7:00 p.m. Program

Cyclone Corral Bar-B-Q
Cost: \$25.00



**To RSVP Mail Guest List & Check
 No Later than May 4, 2009, to:**

BCBA
P. O. Box 282
Belton, TX 76513

DON'T BE AN APRIL'S FOOL

THE SWISS SPAGHETTI HARVEST: The respected BBC news show *Panorama* announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied, "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

THE LEFT-HANDED WHOPPER: Burger King published a full page advertisement in *USA Today* announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers. The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the Left-Handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich. Simultaneously, according to the press release, "many others requested their own 'right handed' version."

PLANETARY ALIGNMENT DECREASES GRAVITY: The British astronomer Patrick Moore announced on BBC Radio 2 that at 9:47 AM a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event was going to occur that listeners could experience in their very own homes. The planet Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, temporarily causing a gravitational alignment that would counteract and lessen the Earth's own gravity. Moore told his listeners that if they jumped in the air at the exact moment that this planetary alignment occurred, they would experience a strange floating sensation. When 9:47 AM arrived, BBC2 began to receive hundreds of phone calls from listeners claiming to have felt the sensation. One woman even reported that she and her eleven friends had risen from their chairs and floated around the room.

BOMBS AWAY: On April 1, 1915, in the midst of World War I, a French aviator flew over a German camp and dropped what appeared to be a huge bomb. The German soldiers immediately scattered in all directions, but no explosion followed. After some time, the soldiers crept back and gingerly approached the bomb. They discovered it was actually a large football with a note tied to it that read, "April Fool!"

KILLER BEES ATTACK ARIZONA: In 1994 residents of Glendale and Peoria, Arizona woke to find yellow fliers posted around their neighborhoods warning them of "Operation Killer Bees." Apparently there was to be widespread aerial spraying later that day to eradicate a killer bee population that had made its way into the area. Residents were warned to stay indoors from 9 am until 2:30 pm. The phone numbers of local television and radio stations were provided. On the bottom of the flier the name of an official government agency was listed: Arizona Pest Removal Information Line (For Outside Operations Listings). The first letters of this agency spelled out "April Fool." Few people got the joke. Radio and television stations received numerous calls, as did the Arizona Agriculture Department. Many worried residents stayed inside all day, anxiously watching out their windows for the pest-control planes to fly overhead.

THE 26-DAY MARATHON: The *Daily Mail* ran a story about an unfortunate Japanese long-distance runner, Kimo Nakajimi, who had entered the London Marathon but, on account of a translation error, thought that he had to run for 26 days, not 26 miles. Reportedly Nakajimi was now somewhere out on the roads of England, still running, determined to finish the race. Various people had spotted him, though they were unable to flag him down. The translation error was attributed to Timothy Bryant, an import director, who said, "I translated the rules and sent them off to him. But I have only been learning Japanese for two years, and I must have made a mistake. He seems to be taking this marathon to be something like the very long races they have over there."

DISEASES OF BRUNUS EDWARDII: The *Veterinary Record*, the weekly journal of the British veterinary profession, contained an article about the diseases of *Brunus edwardii*, which was described as a species "commonly kept in homes in the United Kingdom and other countries in Europe and North America." The article warned:

Pet ownership surveys have shown that 63.8 percent of households are inhabited by one or more of these animals, and there is a statistically significant relationship between their population and the number of children in a household. The public health implications of this fact are obvious, and it is imperative that more be known about their diseases, particularly zoonoses or other conditions which might be associated with their close contact with man.

For months afterwards the correspondence section of the *Veterinary Record* was dominated by letters about *Brunus edwardii*, most of which offered new observations about the species. The article proved so popular that it was eventually published in a special edition by Whittington Press, although it was reported that the British Library later had difficulty deciding how to classify it, as fact or fiction. *Brunus edwardii* is more commonly known as the "Teddy Bear".

DON'T DISTURB THE SQUIRRELS: Westdeutsche Rundfunk, a German radio station, announced that officials in Cologne had just passed an unusual new city regulation. Joggers going through the park would be required to pace themselves to go no faster than six mph. Any faster, it was felt, would unnecessarily disturb the squirrels who were in the middle of their mating season.

VIRGIN COLA'S BLUE CANS: 1996 Virgin Cola announced that in the interest of consumer safety it had integrated a new technology into its cans. When the cola passed its sell-by date, the liquid would react with the metal in the can, turning the can itself bright blue. Virgin warned that consumers should therefore avoid purchasing all blue cans. The joke was that Pepsi had recently unveiled its newly designed cans. They were bright blue.

SMELLOVISION: In 1965 BBC TV featured an interview with a professor who had just invented a device called "smellovision." This miraculous technology allowed viewers to experience directly in their own home aromas produced in the television studio. The professor offered a demonstration by cutting some onions and brewing coffee. A number of viewers called in to confirm that they distinctly experienced these scents as if they were there in the studio with him. Since no aromas were being transmitted, whatever these viewers thought they smelled coming out of their TV sets must be chalked up to the power of suggestion.

For our 25th wedding anniversary my husband Bo and I went to Costa Rica. We were very fortunate to have our son and his fiancée with us, especially since she speaks fluent Spanish and was able to communicate at times where it would have been hard for us. I researched for almost a year and I had our itinerary all laid out for 7 fun filled days in a beautiful country.

CARE FREE IN COSTA RICA

BY: FAITH MULLINS



The next day was our travel day. I heard the roads can be treacherous, so we planned plenty of time. We were moving for three nights at the beach. I found a place right on the beach in Safari tents complete with king size bed and tiled floors and bath. The beach was beautiful and the sunsets were to die for. We had no air conditioning and got the breeze off the Pacific along with the breeze and wild-life all night. We had no phones or televisions, and our cell phones would not work. As we drove around we noticed the Costa Rican kids playing outside with their bicycles and pets. You could feel the big difference in the simple life here. As we got closer to our beach destination we were on the rough roads I heard about. The fastest we could go was around 20 mph for almost 45 minutes of driving. It is my understanding that the Costa Rica government has not invested money in the roads, they instead invest in education and universal healthcare, and they have one of the best health systems in Latin America. The people were very friendly and always ready to help.



FAITH, CHASE AND ODALIS ON THE BEACH

We first visited the rain forest area around the only continuously active volcano in the country. We started our first day at the rain forest by going down zip lines in the jungle that were above trees 250-300 feet. I think about it now and remember looking down and not being able to see the ground and can't believe I did it! That night we reserved four hours and dinner at the hot springs. This consists of 6 pools in a natural setting in the jungle that has waterfalls and water warmed from the volcano. You start out with a pool that is 91° degrees and work your way up to the pool that is 105°.



The next morning we were up early for our repelling/canyoneering trip. Wow! What an experience! For 3 hours we hiked down through canyon streams and repelled off waterfalls with the last one being 200 feet. This was definitely an adrenaline rush. After we climbed back out of the canyon we were greeted at the office with a homemade Costa Rican meal.



(From top to bottom)
Bo, Faith, Chase Odalis and others waiting for dam to break!!!



FAITH REPELLING DOWN WATERFALL



FAITH'S SON, CHASE ON ZIP LINE



BO AND FAITH'S TENT



HAND CARVED MASK

Our last stop before heading home was at an Indigenous Indian village (Boruca Indians). We traveled for miles up into the mountains on dirt roads to visit their village and their workshop where they carve mask out of wood and sell them. The Boruca do not get money from the government because they have different beliefs. The money they make from the mask goes to their tribe. It was very eye opening to see how simple they live and how they work. If you want to go somewhere for an adventure, this is the place to go. As you can probably tell, I loved Costa Rica! It was everything I had hoped it would be and more.

SPRING BENCH BAR CONFERENCE



**GUESTS
AND
SPEAKERS**



MARCH 5, 2009

Congratulations to Sherry Kay Janke of Baird, Crews, Schiller, & Whitaker, P.C. Her beautiful daughter, Cristina was married to Matt Stroh on Saturday, March 28th at Tenroc Ranch in Salado. Sherry Kay said it was a wonderful occasion - beautiful bride, handsome groom. They are very excited to welcome Matt to their family.



Silverblatt Law Office in Harker Heights has an immediate opening for an experienced Paralegal in Estate Planning and Probate Law. The right candidate must be experienced in Guardianships and Probates. Must have good organization skills and work well with the public. Knowledge of Time Matters and Wordperfect is helpful but will train. To apply, please send resume to:

Gene@SilverblattLaw.com

or

Tracy@SilverblattLaw.com

or for more information call (254) 634-1122

SAVE THE DATE

2009 TEXAS ADVANCED PARALEGAL SEMINAR (TAPS)

**OCTOBER 14-16, 2009
SOUTH SHORE HARBOUR RESORT
LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS**

**SCHEDULE OF CLE TOPICS, EVENTS AND REGISTRATION
WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING JUNE 2009 ON THE
TEXAS PARALEGAL DIVISION'S WEBSITE,**

www.txpd.org

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



ELLEN HUFFMAN - 11TH

LINDA INGRAHAM - 24TH

WishAFriend.com

April Born

*Amiable. Diplomatic. Always ready to help others.
Adventurous. Great sense of humor. Loves to enjoy life.
Totally active and restless. More emotional than practical. A good motivator.
Spiritual and God-fearing. Good looking and sexy.
Faithful lover. Hasty decision maker. Brainy and clever.*



**SAY CHEESE!!!
GUESS WHO
THIS
CUTIE PIE IS?**

SYMBOLS OF EASTER

Easter eggs and baby chicks symbolize new life. Eggs have been a symbol of Spring since ancient times. An egg is also a symbol of the rock tomb of which Christ emerged when He arose again. The chick, hatching out of the egg, symbolizes new life or re-birth.

The rabbit, or hare, is a symbol of abundant new life in ancient times, and reminds us of Spring and new life.

Easter Lilies - The white blossoms symbolize the purity of Jesus. Lilies, emerging from the Earth in the Spring, also symbolize new life and the resurrection of Christ.

The lamb represents Jesus, "the Lamb of God".

The cross symbolizes Jesus' victory over death.

Palm branches represent when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday and people waved palm branches, welcoming Him.

Candles symbolize Jesus, "the light of the world".

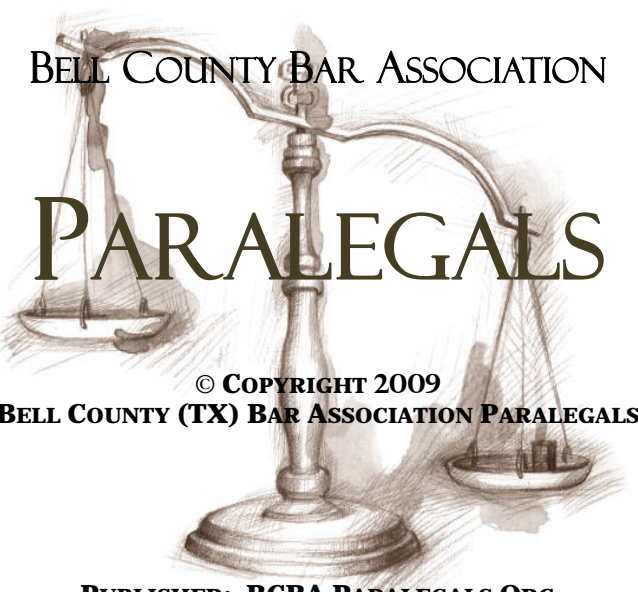
Baby animals born in the Spring represent new life.

The whole life cycle of the butterfly is meant to symbolize the life of Jesus Christ. The first stage, is the caterpillar, which stands for His life on Earth. Second phase begins from the cocoon stage, portraying the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. The third and final stage is the butterfly, representing His raising from the dead in a glorified body and peace.

BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PARALEGALS

© COPYRIGHT 2009
BELL COUNTY (TX) BAR ASSOCIATION PARALEGALS



**PUBLISHER: BCBA PARALEGALS ORG
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MELISSA BARTON-WOOD**