



The HPWBANA News

Volume 7, Number 4

April 2011

www.hpwbana.org

Message From the Board

Get ready for the first neighborhood event of the season – the Egg Hunt. Held the Saturday before Easter, the Egg Hunt offers us the first opportunity to get outdoors and celebrate as a neighborhood. If you've been thinking about getting more involved with the neighborhood, helping with an event is a fun way to do it! If you'd like to help with the Egg Hunt or the Fourth of July parade, please contact our Events Committee Chair, Scott Rogillio (scott@rogillio.com). Hope to see you there and good luck finding the golden egg!

Andrea Torres
HPWBANA President

HPWBANA Neighborhood Meeting

Please attend our next monthly meeting:

Monday, April 18, 2010
Yarborough Library
7:00-8:30 pm

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7:00-8:45 p.m. at the Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. There is no meeting in December. All neighbors are invited to attend.

Learn About Oak Wilt *at our next neighborhood association meeting*

At the April 18 meeting of the HPWBANA, Chris Dolan, a City of Austin arborist, will provide information about Oak Wilt prevention and containment. Oak Wilt is established in our neighborhood. This is an opportunity to learn more about this challenging problem. All neighbors are encouraged to attend.

Date & Time: 4/18, 7pm. Location: Yarborough Library.

For more information about Oak Wilt prevention, treatment and containment, go to <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/> and also <http://www.texasoakwilt.org/>

Please remember that March through June is when beetles that spread Oak Wilt are most active. We can all help prevent the spread of this disease by avoiding the pruning and removal of oaks during this time period. The HPWBANA board is creating awareness of this policy via the signs that are placed throughout our neighborhood. Your cooperation benefits everyone in our neighborhood.

Thanks for your help keeping our neighborhood so lovely and shaded and green.

Perry Park Egg Hunt

The Perry Park Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 23rd. The hunt will begin at 9:30 a.m. Don't be late! The Easter Bunny will be on hand to give hugs and pose for photos with the children. Prizes will be awarded to the lucky ones who find the Golden Egg in each age category. Play "Guess the Number of Jelly Beans" and win, too! Don't miss this fun HPWBANA tradition.

Volunteers are needed to hide eggs and fill eggs. Also, we would welcome your donation of plastic eggs in good condition and candy for filling eggs. Please contact Carolyn Robinson (carrob99@hotmail.com) to volunteer to help with the egg hunt.



Highland Park West Balcones Area

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Austin Citywide Information Center 974-2000 or 311
Emergency Police911
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.)311
Social Services (during work hours)211
SPO David J. Knutson

Central West District APD Rep.....974-5917
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line 210-698-1709

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The HPWBANA Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month except December at the Yarbrough Library on Hancock. Meetings are held from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. All neighbors are invited to attend. www.hpwbana.org

HWPBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45th St. Mail your membership dues to HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78755

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the businesses that advertise in the HPWBANA Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No neighborhood association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

HPE Celebrates

Community Tree of the Year Award!

The official celebration for Highland Park Elementary winning the 2010 Community Tree of the Year Award was quite the event! Here is a link to the Tree of the Year posting on the City of Austin website: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/treeoftheyear/awards.htm>. The picture of the entire student body under the canopy of the Bur Oak tree is impressive. It should be noted that every student at HPE wrote an essay about what the big bur oak tree in the front of the school means to them and students were elected to be Tree Huggers to help measure the tree for the application. The application was over 500 pages long! This beautiful Bur Oak tree is located in front of the school on Fairview Dr.

The Scottie Singers sang a wonderful song to start the celebration, which was televised via cctv to the student body. The Student Council along with the Tree Huggers and Barkly (the Treefolks mascot) welcomed Leah Hanie from the City of Austin Climate Protection Program. Leah presented the award to Principal Tammie Workman. Then it was time to take pictures!

Many, many thanks go out to Juliee Beyt who spearheaded this effort.

Nadene Morning

HPWBANA Beautification and Parks Committee



What's on your to-do list this month?

Change Your World - sundays @ 10 am

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Central Texas Mountaineers Visit Mt Bonnell

It has become an annual tradition for the Central Texas Mountaineers to visit Mt Bonnell and repel down the steep cliffs. They strap on harnesses, safety gear and attach ropes. They are repelling for a purpose – for fun – and to clean up the massive amount of trash that collects on the side of the hill and at the bottom. Mt Bonnell is one of the most visited parks in Austin and the trash that collects is often hidden from view. PARD and volunteers keep the top of summit fairly clean, but what collects at the bottom needs help from the specialists.

If you are interesting in the learning about this great outdoor active group check out their website: <http://www.ctmrocks.com>. You will quickly find that this group uses their passion for climbing to take on preservation projects in parkland across Austin.

This community very much welcomes the interest and activities from the Central Texas Mountaineers in improving Mt Bonnell. They will be discussing ways to help out in the future with the West Point Society of Central Texas and the neighborhood associations in the area.

*Nadene Morning
Beautification and Parks Committee*

e-Waste Drive

The University of Texas Student Engineering Council, Electronic-Waste Drive Committee is sponsoring an e-Waste drive is an annual event put on by UT students in association with Goodwill and the Dell Reconnect Program to collect electronic waste from the community, reusing what can be reused and disposing of the rest properly.

HERE ARE THE EVENT DETAILS:

- **Date:** April 9, 2011
- **Time:** 9 AM - 2 PM
- **Location:** UT Parking Lot 53 located at approx. 2922 San Jacinto, across the street from Sao Paulo's Restaurante (the entrance is a bridge). Map: <http://tinyurl.com/eWasteDrive2011>
Purpose: To recycle household electronic waste
- **Items Accepted:** Computers, DVD/VCR Players, Cables and Wires, Fax Machines, MP3 Players, Cell Phones, Scanners, Printers, Copiers, and Gently Used Televisions
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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Fire Ants are Back

I was working in the yard pruning roses last week and I got stung by my first fire ant of the season. While I knew it was inevitable, I was hoping that it would occur a bit later in the year. But, it's true. Fire ants have begun to yet again, dot the landscape with their mounds.

Spring time is when people see fire ants swarming. Swarming is a reproductive process that usually occurs on warm spring days after a rain event. Winged males and females leave the mound and fly into the air to mate. After mating, they fall to the ground where the males die and females break off their wings. Females then begin to search for a location to establish a new colony. They dig a small chamber in the soil, lay a few eggs and rear those young until they become mature worker ants. At that point the workers take over colony functions and the queen continues to expand the population of the colony by laying more eggs.

While searching for a new colony location, many mated fire ant queens are killed by lizards, birds, spiders, other ants, and often my



shoe stomping them. The queens that survive can be managed by broadcasting fire ant bait over your entire property. New colonies are usually very small and may not have substantial mounds

that you would be able to locate to treat individually. The worker ants forage for food, so they would have the opportunity to locate fire ant bait and carry back to the colony to share with others.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Austin Fire Department


The Austin Fire Department is currently in the process of hiring firefighters. This process has many elements, and it assures the City of Austin the finest firefighters to be had.

One part of that process is the Oral Interview. In late April to mid May the Department will be conducting these interviews for over 2000 candidates. This is a massive undertaking, and it will take the efforts of many to execute. A 10 day commitment is being asked of community members to be a part of the panels that will conduct these interviews. AFD is seeking 48 individuals to volunteer their time during this period.

If you would like to help with this temporary volunteer assignment, please have contact Ruben Garza at 974-4124 or fireemployment@ci.austin.tx.us

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Free Household Document Shredding

With the increased awareness of identity theft, it is more important than ever to carefully dispose of personal records such as credit card statements and checking account records. ARMA and the City of Austin Solid Waste Services are sponsoring a free "Shred Day." Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 16, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Austin High School parking lot. Households can bring up five boxes of paper records for shredding. Mobile shredding trucks will be on site to shred all materials. Please make sure your records are paper only (no hard plastics, no plastic bags, electronic media or three-ring binders) and are not wet. In lieu of a fee – monetary donations will be accepted for the Capital Area Food Bank.

For more details regarding the free household shredding, e-mail Jannette. goodall@ci.austin.tx.us or call 974-9045.



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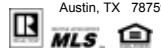
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3 Simple Steps to a Better Lawn

If you have one, you know that lawns can be a lot of work. Here are 3 simple steps that will lead to a healthier lawn for you and our planet.

First, and I really hate to be negative but, never, ever use a "weed and feed" type product. The time to fertilize is mid-April and not the time to apply pre-emergent weed killers - they've already emerged. These weed killers can potentially damage trees and other plantings in your landscape, and if you do need one, the time to apply it would have been in February (see another weeding option in step 2). It is difficult to find a fertilizer that does not contain the "weed" portion but they are out there so please, please look for them. Numerous, recent studies have shown that all your lawn needs is nitrogen. This is the first number listed on the bag. For example, look for 21-0-0, or 10-0-0. Whatever you find, read the directions carefully and don't over apply.

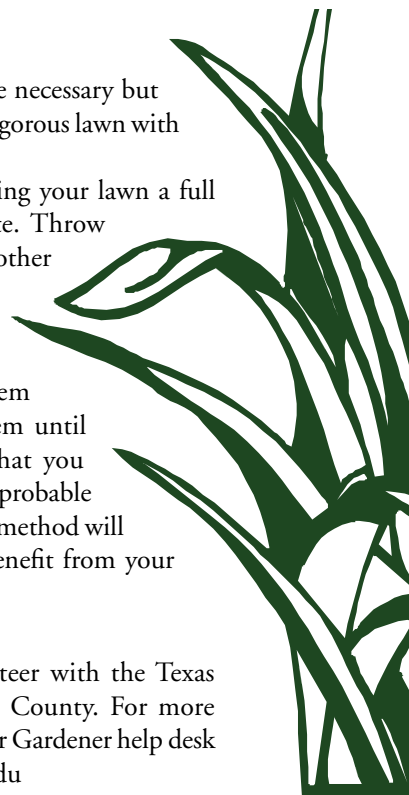
Second, mowing your lawn regularly is the best way to free it of weeds. Mowing weekly not only cuts the grass to encourage growth, but it cuts the weeds before they have time to reseed. A dense, healthy lawn discourages weed

growth. Some hand pulling might be necessary but again, weekly mowing will lead to a vigorous lawn with far fewer weeds.

And finally make sure you are giving your lawn a full inch of water each time you irrigate. Throw some cake pans, tuna cans or any other short sided collection vessels you might have out onto your lawn. If they are light weight you may need to put a rock in them to keep them from blowing away. Run your system until placing a ruler in the pan shows that you have delivered an inch of water. With probable water restrictions again this year, this method will ensure that you will get the most benefit from your assigned day.

Janice Brown,

Certified Master Gardener volunteer with the Texas Agrilife Extension Service in Travis County. For more information, please contact the Master Gardener help desk at 854-9600 or travismg@ag.tamu.edu



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Colin's Hope Community Water Safety Splash and Walk
Saturday, April 30th 10AM-3PM
The whole family can splash into our Water Safety Challenge and Life jacket Swim or try out a Stand Up Paddle Board at The Expedition School Lagoon (On Lady Bird Lake in East Austin next to Fiesta Gardens.) Volunteers are also needed to pick up and distribute water safety packets to homes in zip codes that have high incidences of drowning. This is a great family or group volunteer activity. Email alissa.magrum@colinshope.org to volunteer. Together, we can prevent drowning and save lives.

Colin's Hope Night at Eastside Movies in the Park
Tuesday, May 3rd, Doors open at 6PM, Movie at sundown
Join us at The Expedition School Lagoon (On Lady Bird Lake in East Austin next to Fiesta Gardens) for a screening of Whale Rider. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the movie under the stars.

Colin's Hope Day at Schlitterbahn-New Braunfels
Saturday, May 21st
Join us for a day to promote Water Safety and Drowning Prevention at Schlitterbahn-New Braunfels! Special tickets are available from Colin's Hope. Email alissa.magrum@colinshope.org for more information.

For more info visit our website at www.colinshope.org



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