

Legendary TIMES

June 2011

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Official Newsletter of the Legend Oaks II Homeowners Association

PRUNING GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION OF OAK WILT IN TEXAS

Oak wilt, caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, is the most destructive disease affecting live oaks and red oaks in Central Texas. Most of the tree mortality results from tree-to-tree spread of the pathogen through interconnected or grafted root systems, once an oak wilt center becomes established. New infection centers begin when beetles carry oak wilt fungal spores from infected red oaks to fresh, open wounds on healthy oaks. Wounds include any damage caused by wind, hail, vehicles, construction, squirrels, birds or pruning. Research has shown that both oak wilt fungal mats on infected red oaks and insects that carry oak wilt spores are most prevalent in the spring. Below is a brief description of how you can reduce the risk of fungal spread when pruning.

- Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.

- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol™ between sites and/or trees.
- If possible avoid pruning or wounding of oaks during the spring (currently defined as February 1 through June 30). Reasons to prune in the spring include:
- To accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance.
- To repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)

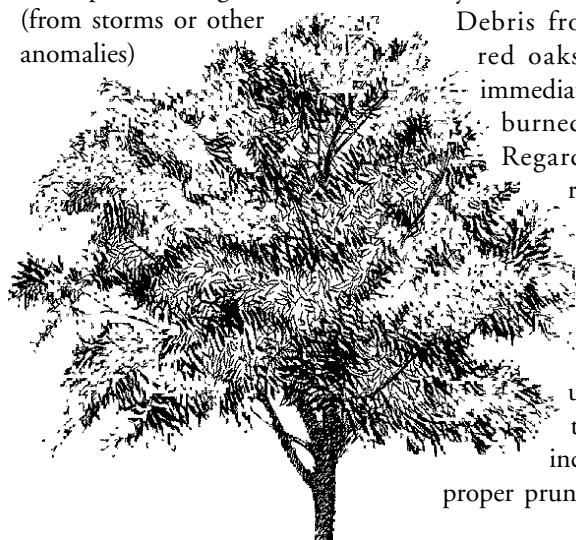
- To remove limbs rubbing on a building or rubbing on other branches, and to raise low limbs over a street.
 - On sites where construction schedules take precedence, pruning any live tissue should only be done to accommodate required clearance.
 - Dead branch removal where live tissue is not exposed.
- Pruning for other reasons (general tree health, non-safety related clearance or thinning, etc.) should be conducted before February 1 or after June 30.

Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried.

Regardless of the reasons or time of year, proper pruning techniques should be used. These techniques include making proper pruning cuts and

avoiding injurious practices such as topping or excessive crown thinning. If you are uncertain about any of this information, you should consult with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, or an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas Forest Service or Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

References (available at <http://www.TexasOakWilt.org>):
Appel, D.N., and R.F. Billings (eds.). 1995. Oak wilt perspectives: Proceedings of the Nation Oak Wilt Symposium, June 22-25, 1992. Austin, TX. Information Development, Houston, TX. 217 p. Billings, R.F., and D.N. Appel (eds.). 2009. Proceedings of the National Oak Wilt Symposium. June 4-7, 2007, Austin, TX. Texas Forest Service Publication 166. 267p. Prepared January 12th, 2011 in cooperation between Texas Forest Service, Texas AgriLife Extension Service and International Society of Arboriculture Texas Chapter.



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Austin Newcomers Club April Luncheon

Austin Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Join us at our monthly luncheon as well as take the opportunity to learn about and become involved in many varied fun Interest groups.

Time: 11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon

Date: June 15, 2011

For Luncheon Reservations email:

LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com
or Diane Israelson 512-467-4979

For other Newcomers information

visit www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512-314-5100

Enhancing business while giving to the community

After experiencing some life changing events, Laurie Loew created a business model focused on helping others and giving back to the community.

She soon found out that she had created a “social” business, and was at the forefront of a new business model called “social entrepreneurship”.

She was now being consulted by business owners and organizations on how businesses could become more “socially responsible”. Helping others realize the benefits of giving – both personally and professionally – has become Laurie’s passion.

Starting a business during a poor economic climate was not easy. Then there was the perception that the industry is largely self-serving. Laurie chose to focus on the opportunities and embarked on a mission to create value beyond the bottom line. In doing so, she created a business, which gives back to the community, thereby enriching the lives of those who are helped and a sense of satisfaction for herself for the good that comes from it.

Since she started this business, she has been able to donate over \$110,000 to the nonprofit community in less than three years. She is also the proud recipient of the 2010 Ethics in Business Award.

Laurie will share how she came upon this idea, how she put it in practice and what she has learned from doing this.



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MEET NATHAN

What is life like today for a typical ten year old boy? Skateboards, bicycles, computer games, school with kids he has known since he started kinder garden, neighborhood friends to hang out with, parents that make him clean his room and take a bath on a regular basis, but are always there for him; grandparents that spoil him? For a child in the foster care system, many of these things are missing. And those are the most important, namely the relationships with family and long term friends that tend to build trust and security that help the child develop a strong sense of self and build on self-esteem.

Meet Nathan, an active 10 year old child in foster care. He loves the Texas Longhorns and is a talented football and basketball player. He enjoys school, has lots of friends and is always respectful to his teacher. Nathan has so much potential for the future and in finding his forever home, he is destined to reach all of it!!

Stability of loving relationships and predictability in a safe environment are essential elements to help each child reach their potential. Finding a "Forever Family" for a child like Nathan is critical to his continued growth and development. As long as kids like Nathan remain in the foster care system, they always have the mindset that tomorrow may mean another foster home, another school, another set of parents to adjust to. Could you help Nathan or other children like him to gain the trust and security that comes with having a permanent family?

Adopting a child from the foster care system requires little or no cost to the adoptive family and funding may be available to help the adoptive family support the child or sibling group.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Berka, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, Adoption Coalition of Texas at



512-450-8750 or email at stephanieberka@adopttexas.org

To learn more about the adoption process and the Adoption Coalition of Texas, please call Bruce Thompson at 512-301-2825 or visit our website at <http://www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org>



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NATUREWATCH

Wild Woodland Orchids -by Jim and Lynne Weber

A colorful group of native orchids called Hexalectris or coralroots are found mainly in the mountains of northern Mexico and West Texas, but we are fortunate enough to have at least two species that grow in our area. The name Hexalectris literally means 'six cock's combs,' referring to the six prominent ridges that were thought to run down the length of the flower's lower lip. Despite this name, most flowers have only five or seven ridges.

These orchids are micro-heterotrophic, which describes a plant that gets some or all of its food from parasitism on fungi rather than from photosynthesis. Most Hexalectris orchids have only been discovered and studied in the last fifty years. They depend heavily on an extremely delicate balance of environmental factors, which means they are not always observed every year, and it makes them impossible to transplant from the wild.

In our area, April through August is the best time to spot the Spiked Crested Coralroot (*Hexalectris spicata* var. *spicata*). An uncommon orchid, it is most often found in the leaf litter on the wooded limestone hillsides and canyon slopes in oak-juniper habitats of the Edwards Plateau. Also called cock's comb or brunetta, the blooms of the Spiked Crested Coralroot grow on a tall, leafless, fleshy-pink stalk. Each bloom has creamy yellow petals and sepals striped with brownish-purple, and the central white lip is adorned with five to seven wavy crests of deep, royal purple.

Recently, the first record of the Giant or Largeflower Crested Coralroot (*Hexalectris grandiflora*) was discovered in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve in Travis County. Previously thought only to grow in the Davis and Chisos Mountains of West Texas, the bright pink, leafless stalk of this species grows from 10 to 24 inches tall. Along the stalk, vivid pink flowers bloom with a white mark in the center of an elaborately shaped, three-lobed lip. This coralroot also flourishes in our oak-juniper woodlands, and is thought to bloom from June to September. Other common names for this beautiful wild orchid include Greenman's hexalectris or Greenman's cock's comb.

These unique wild woodland orchids are uncommon to rare in
(Continued on Page X)

Nature Watch- (Continued from Page X)

our area, and together they help define the true nature of the Texas Hill Country. Monitoring and preserving them is not only good for the sake of maintaining biological diversity and understanding changing environmental conditions, but for the future beauty of our ecoregion as well.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, *NatureWatch Austin*, to be published by Texas A&M University Press in September 2011.




Spiked Crested Coralroot



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August 27th & 28th 3rd Annual Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon

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