



POST

The Official Newsletter of the
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

February 2014
Volume 5, Issue 2

Happy 2014 from the Landscaping Committee.

As you are planning and planting, please consider XERISCAPING. Now that does not mean rocks, gravel and cactus. It is from the Greek word Xeros meaning dry and refers to water conservation through creative landscaping. As Texas gardeners we should be aware of the 7 xeriscape principals:

1. Start with a good design or plan
2. Prepare and improve the soil (get your soil analyzed for a small fee from Texas A & M)
3. Use mulch
4. Limit lawn areas (notice that does not say eliminate)
5. Choose low water use plants and group plants according to similar water requirements
6. Water efficiently: most low-water plants can do well with an inch of water a week
7. Practice good maintenance: do not over-fertilize; weed as needed; raise the mower height

We have many beautiful yards here in Plum Creek that are utilizing these xeriscaping principals. The knockout roses that are at the Plum Creek entrances of Fergus and Witte are terrific examples that fit into a xeriscape landscape. When you walk through our community check out the yards. Most gardeners are more than happy to share information about their plants.

If you would like more information, please consider joining the landscaping committee. We meet once a month for about



an hour and talk about all sorts of landscaping issues. We judge the Yard of the Month, organize the Garden Tour in May, and judge the Holiday Lights. We are gardeners of all levels and just enjoy getting together to share information and tales from our gardening.

Well, what are you waiting for? Get out that shovel and dig a hole and plant something!!!

*Happy Gardening,
Suzanne Parr
landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com*

Committee Contacts

PLUM CREEK HOA MANAGER

Kristi Morrison plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com

PLUM CREEK POST AND WEEKLY ENEWS

Adriane Carbajal announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com

COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATION QUESTIONS

Brandee Otto reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com

DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Sandy Stevens dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com

LAKE COMMITTEE

Robert Russell/Sam Guerrero lake@plumcreektxhoa.com

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Suzanne Parr landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com

POOL COMMITTEE

Scott Brown pool@plumcreektxhoa.com

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Brandee Otto recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com

SAFETY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

OPEN safety@plumcreektxhoa.com

SOCIAL GROUPS

Brandee Otto socialgroups@plumcreektxhoa.com

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Tamberly Hankins-Wojcik.....

..... welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com

HOA OFFICE PHONE 512.262.1140

Important Numbers

STREET LIGHTS, ROAD REPAIRS, STREET SIGNS

City of Kyle Public Works Dept..... 512.262.3024

..... pw@cityofkyle.com

ANIMAL CONTROL

City of Kyle Animal Control 512.268.8800

SOLID WASTE

TDS Customer Care Dept 1.800.375.8375

POWER OUTAGES

PEC 1.888.883.3379

SCHOOLS

Hays CISD 512.268.2141

Negley Elementary 512-268.8501

Barton Middle School 512.268.1472

Hays High School 512.268.2911

DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL?

View the current issue of the Plum Creek Post
on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com

Plum Creek's Yearly Event Schedule

*Come out for the fun in
Plum Creek this year!*

Friday, April 1st

Yard of the Month Season Begins
Runs through June

Saturday April 19th

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday May 10th

Spring Community Wide Garage Sale
open to the public

Saturday May 17th

Plum Creek Garden Tour
Front Porch Days Golf Tournament
open to the public
www.frontporchdays.com

Sunday, May 18th

Front Porch Days
including 5K, open to the public

Friday July 4th

Annual 4th of July Parade & Picnic in Plum Creek

Saturday, October 4th

Fall Community Wide Garage Sale
open to the public

Tuesday, October 7th

National Night Out

Saturday October 11th

Hootenanny on the Hill
*including the Wildflower Seed & Stomp &
Scarecrow Contest, BBQ & Chili Cook-off, Pet
Fest & More, open to the public*
www.hootenannyonthehill.com

Saturday, December 6th

Santa Visits Plum Creek
includes Holiday Market

*Other dates coming down the pipeline
include the Holiday Lights Contest.*

*Dates subject to change, so please check the PC
Post & the eNews for updated information.*

Newsletter Info

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.....advertising@PEELinc.com

Advertising Info

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Plum Creek December 2013 Lights Contests Winners

TRADITIONAL
1st **6063 Steiner**
2nd **6087 Steiner**
3rd **1068 Sanders**

RELIGIOUS
1380 Echols

NOVELTY
1st **238 Wetzel**
2nd **130 B Utterback**
3rd **289 Haupt**

The lights in the neighborhood looked great. Next year remember to nominate your own house or your neighbor. Great job to all that participated and decorated! Big thanks to the Landscape Committee for judging and volunteering. Looking forward to the light displays in the 2014 Holiday Lights Contest.

Time to take down Christmas Decorations!

Holiday season is over and now we need to take the lights/decorations down. The inspector will be looking for left over Christmas decorations in the month of February. So please take them down and avoid getting a violation.

Thank you from the Plum Creek HOA



DENNIS AND MARIEL PERKINS

PLUM CREEK REALTORS

512-217-1450 MARIEL

512-217-1451 DENNIS

dperkins64@austin.rr.com

mperkins1945@austin.rr.com



2012-2013 STATS

- AN INCREASE OF THE AVERAGE PRICE PER SQ. FT. OF 8% OR \$7 PER SQ. FT.
- 2012-NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD 113
- 2013-NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD 126

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SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF PLUM CREEK SINCE 2001

Love Pops

By Christina Baese

Some folks call these treats caramel marshmallow delights, but since it's Valentine's Day, we'll call them love pops! I found this recipe in a Taste of Home magazine this winter and have added my tips. These treats are simple to make. Kids can help, and the variations are only limited by your imagination! They are a real treat! Enjoy!



INGREDIENTS

- 1 package of large marshmallows (makes about 40 to 45)
- 1 package of caramel bits (by the chocolate chips)
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk, 14 ounces
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 1 box of rice krispies cereal, 10 ounces

DIRECTIONS

1. Place a toothpick in each marshmallow and place on foil lined cookie sheet.
2. Pour about half of the box of cereal into a large bowl. You can add more later, if needed.
3. Combine caramels, milk, and butter in a double boiler, which you can create using a metal bowl over boiling water. Stir until caramels are melted and mixture is smooth. Remove from heat.
4. Dip marshmallows in caramel mixture and shake slightly to remove excess caramel. Then, roll in cereal. Place back on your foil lined cookie sheet.
5. Once done, place the treats in the refrigerator for about an hour. Then, they can be transferred to an airtight container until ready to serve. Even in the container, we put a small piece of foil on the bottom just to ensure easy release, especially if taking to a party. I think we enjoy them best when straight out of the refrigerator!

VARIATIONS

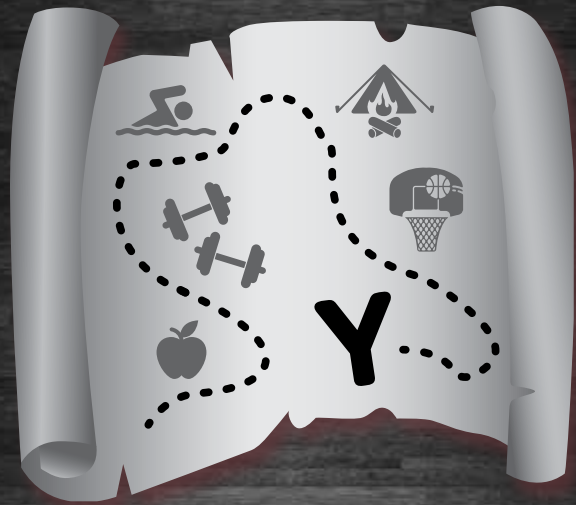
The neat thing about this recipe is that it's limitless and easy. You can use other types of marshmallows, chips, and/or cereals or coatings. For example, cocoa krispies, nuts, coconut, mini m&ms, or just candy sprinkles would make great coatings! Enjoy!

Neighborhood Watch: Slow Down on those Streets, Please!

As a reminder, please keep those speed limits to under 30 (or 20 in some spots) when driving through Plum Creek. Alleys are typically 5 MPH. Please be extremely careful on streets with lots of parked cars, as you never know when a jogger, child, or pet might dart out from behind one. THANK YOU!

Round-About Safety

All traffic must yield to the traffic coming from the left. Entering traffic must wait for a gap in traffic before entering the circle.



Your search has ended.

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Valentine's Day

Time to Prune the Roses

While many of you celebrate Valentine's Day by giving roses, gardeners celebrate by pruning their rose bushes.

Pruning improves appearance, stimulates growth, controls insects and disease, and controls bloom quality and quantity. Without a trim, roses bloom poorly, go to seed, and become dormant.

Believe it or not, it is better to prune badly than to never pull out the shears. Thus, even if you don't consider yourself an expert, trimming the roses can only help them.

In the past, roses were given a severe haircut and only a few foot long canes remained. This same rule holds for most modern roses, as they are considered weak growers and require a major jump start for spring.

However, many of us, including myself, have a garden filled with antique and Earthkind roses, and they only require moderate pruning. They are strong growing bushes, and thus, a gardener just needs to remove half to two-thirds of the existing bush in spring. They require a trim, not a whacking.

Follow these simple guidelines:

1. Use sharp pruners or shears for cutting. A keyhole saw or lopper will cut old, woody, and thick canes. Wear gloves to protect your fingers and gauntlet gloves or a long sleeve shirt to protect your arms.

2. Expose the lower plant and canes by removing mulch and debris and take a good look at your bush. You will want to keep the center open for good air circulation, and you may want to cut canes at uneven heights for a longer blooming period and better appearance.

3. Before making any cuts, you must learn the best technique! Prune ¼ inch above a bud on a downward slant at a 45 degree angle, which will keep moisture from settling on the cut and causing stem die back. Cut to an outside bud to make plants grow wider. Cut to an inside bud to encourage more upright growth, especially if the plant tends to sprawl.

4. First and foremost, remove all dead wood. Any brown coloration in the pith or center indicates a dead or dying cane. Cut to a lower bud or clear to the crown to find live pith, which



will be white or pale green.

5. Remove all crossed growth to the quick, or they will return and branch.

6. For modern roses, select three to six strong, basal shoots from the prior year. Remove all other growth and prune the remaining canes to about one foot long.

7. For antique roses, clip only ⅓ to ½ of the bush. This step will encourage full foliage and heavy bloom without destroying vigor or natural shape. Blooms will appear on the new growth in about four to six weeks.

8. Only prune once-blooming roses, like Lady Banks, after their spring bloom. These varieties bloom on wood that has hardened over winter, and an early spring cut will reduce or eliminate their yearly flowering. Ever-blooming varieties and can be tip pruned or lightly trimmed throughout the year, as they flower on new growth.

9. Climbing roses require only a light trim or taming. Only remove dead and unmanageable canes and then, secure the remaining branches.

10. Last, but not least, have fun! If you make a wrong cut, it will grow back.

Happy Valentine's Day from the PC Landscape Committee! Enjoy your roses!

AT THE FENCE

Wear Rec Tags at the Dog Park

Effective January 1, 2014, residents visiting the dog park need to wear their rec tags.

Hays County Food Bank Donation

During the Santa Picture event in December, Plum Creek residents donated 100 pounds of food and nearly \$200 for the Hays County Food Bank. Thank you for all the donations. It would be great to see Plum Creek top this donation during the 2014 Santa Picture event.

Sip & Sew on February 11th

Any New Year Resolutions? Maybe to learn a new hand craft? We have numerous individuals willing to share their talents of knitting, crocheting, sewing, punch needle, counted

cross stitch, needlepoint and rug hooking. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, February 11th, 6:30-8:45 PM in the Fergus Community Center. Come, ready to "do your own thing" or get some instructions or just observe. Come, Sip and Sew! If you have questions, please contact: Iris Sandle - 405-0054 or Sandra Sigler - 512-405-0187


Yard of the Month- Starting April 1st

Yard of the Month nomination will be accepted beginning April 1st through June 1st. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. You can nominate your spouse or your neighbor. Send email nominations to landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com. More details to come in the March PC Post. Start planning your gardens.





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