

TREES CHAPTER 1 **DECAN TREES** (Originally published in Aug. 1999 by Glen Telge)

By Our Neighborhood Dendrologist (Tree Man) Glen Telge

Dear Reader – This is the 1st in a long series of articles that I have written about the Trees of Suburban Houston that I hope that you will enjoy reading.

Many Houston suburbanites have at one time tried planting a Pecan tree in their yard, imagining a bountiful harvest of Pecans in a few short years. After all, the Pecan tree is the official State Tree of Texas. But one has to be patient, because Pecan trees are not the easiest of trees to grow in the city suburbs. They are highly affected by soil condition, drought and disease.

The Pecan tree is susceptible to more than 20 fungal diseases. Pecan Scab, Phytophthora shuck and kernel rot will actually cause the pecan nuts to rot on the branch. You might have noticed the Pecan trees planted around the LDS Church on West Road at Wheatland have produced rotten nuts every season.

Local nurseries sell those varieties that do best in our climate; the Desirable (which is of male gender, producing pollen before the nutlets); and the Choctaw, Mohawk and Shawnee (which are of the female gender, producing nutlets before the pollen). The gender is important because neither variety can produce a fruit without the stimulus provided from the other gender. Some folks prefer the paper-shell varieties that are easier to crack.

Native varieties, which produce a very small but sweet tasting nut, and are commonly observed along the Brazos and Colorado River lowlands. A good place to see them is at Washington on the Brazos State Park near Brenham, Texas. Indian legends state that when the Pecan tree begins to leaf out, cold weather is over. Fall webworms or tent caterpillars are a classic pest to the Pecan tree.

Like the Walnut and the Hickory, the Pecan tree has a distinctive leaf pattern and the leaves produce a strong smell when crushed. Pecan wood is excellent for smoking meats.

The nuts begin to fall on windy days in October. After picking them up off the ground, let them dry out in the sunshine for a few days before shelling them. Once they are shelled, they can be stored in the freezer for several years, or you may opt to bury the unshelled nuts at carefully selected spots in the yard if you feel that the squirrels are not up to that task.

Pecans are highly nutritious and constituted an important item of diet for Native Americans. When Cabeza de Vaca was shipwrecked in Texas in 1528, he reported in his "Relacion" that the coastal Karankawa Indians sat under pecan trees when the nuts were ripe and did little else for weeks but crack and eat them. Today we use pecans for candies, cookies and of our course, Goode Company pecan pie.

The only Texas trees that grow larger than a Pecan are certain Oaks, Pine, Sweet Gum, and Cottonwood. The largest Pecan tree on record in Houston is located in the Houston Heights and is 82 feet tall, 12 feet in circumference, and has a 76 foot spread. The largest Pecan tree in Texas is located in Weatherford, Texas and is 118 feet tall, 21 feet in circumference, and has a 159 foot spread – imagine that tree in a Houston yard!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

All Emergencies
Harris County Sheriff
Harris County Animal Control
Cy-Fair Hospital
Street Lights & Outages - CenterPoint Energy713-207-2222
CenterPoint Energy713-659-2111
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Incwww.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Advertisingadvertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Poison Control Center
AT&T - Repair
Billing
Trash – Royal Disposal & Recycle713-526-1536
Vacation Watch - Harris County District 5 281-290-2100
W. Harris County MUD #11 281-807-9500
Willow Place Post Office
Willowbridge Websitewww.willowbridgehoa.com
Cable/Internet/PhoneCOMCAST713-341-1000

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HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc Gra	aham Mgmt
Tracy Graham	1-497-4320
E-Mailgrahammanagement@sl	ocglobal.net
Fax	1-870-1654
If you have any questions or comments reg	arding the
neighborhood please contact the numbers a	bove.

HOA MEETINGS

Willowbridge/Stonebridge Homeowner's Association Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the community clubhouse at 7:00 pm.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

The Welcoming Committee meetings are the last Monday of each month.

HARRIS COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE

To report street or curb damage, missing/damaged street signs and street flooding: (281) 353-8424 or www.hcp4.net. If a resident wants to request a new sign or replace a damaged one, they have to go online and fill out a request.



Beauty THE BEAST

If you attended the Spring Festival on April 5, then you witnessed the Beauty and the Beast in action.

THE BEAST- The old basketball court that hasn't served that purpose for many, many years. At one time a new net was installed, however; vandals again tore it down. Several ideas have been proposed for its repurposing, such as turning it into a practice court for tennis. Most of the time it has just sat there with the tall chain link fence surrounding it, looking like it should be holding something prisoner. Finally, it has found its purpose (Thank You, Julie Dubros!).

THE BEAUTY- It is a pavilion, architecturally similar in style and color to the clubhouse. Attendees of the Spring Festival were able to sit and eat their pizza/ snacks and have a place to sit down their drinks at tables instead of having to balance these on their arms as in the past. The contractor worked really hard to have "the roof raised" by festival time. Future plans include: Permanent tables and seating under the pavilion and new landscaping between it and the parking area.

POOL GETS PLASTERED!

For the first time since installation, our pool was recently replastered. In addition, all of the lanes were restriped, some tiles replaced (all but the lip), the seats were replaced on the lifeguard chairs, etc. This was an expensive project (16K+), but due to the continued proper maintenance of the facilities, it held out for a lot longer than it should have. That being said, please find the 2014 Pool Schedule below:

DATE	HOU	RS	
5/24	11:00 am	-	8:00 pm
5/25	12:00 pm	-	8:00 pm
5/26 (Memorial Day)*	11:00 am	-	8:00 pm
5/31	11:00 am	-	8:00 pm
6/01	12:00 pm	-	8:00 pm
6/06 through 8/24	11:00 am	-	8:00 pm
9/01	12:00 pm	-	8:00 pm
9/02 (Labor Day)*	11:00 am	-	8:00 pm
5/31 6/01 6/06 through 8/24 9/01	11:00 am 12:00 pm 11:00 am 12:00 pm		8:00 pm 8:00 pm 8:00 pm 8:00 pm

* Denotes pool open – CLOSED ON MONDAYS

Pool party reservations (and tags after initial distribution at the clubhouse):

Sweetwater Pool Co. (281) 988-8480



selling, give us a call for a free market analysis of your home. Over 20 years experience in the local market!



SPRING ALLERGIES & OTHER THINGS THAT GO ITCH IN THE NIGHT (AND DAY - Trees, Grass & Contact Dermatitis)

Spring has Sprung! If in doubt, check out all of the sneezing people around you with runny noses and eyes. The strange winter weather has been partially to blame as it blew in things from other parts of the state, bringing allergens with it. The trees are in full bud/bloom and some like the oak are dropping blooms that look like dried up dead caterpillars. And just one look at all of the yellow residue on your car is enough to make you sneeze. According to the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI), spring ushers in an unwanted period for millions who suffer from allergies. The warmth and humidity emerging during the changing seasons produce a breeding ground for numerous allergens. Trees and grasses are the main culprits identified by the ACAAI than can affect allergy suffers during this time. Spring allergy sources include:

TREES	GRASSES
Birch	Kentucky Bluegrass
Cedar	Timothy
Cottonwood	Johnson
Elm*	Bermuda*
Marala	Redtop
Maple	Orchard
Oak*	Rye
Pine*	Sweet Vernal Grasses

*All of these grow in our neighborhood, plus Ash which is also an allergen for some. We may have some of the other grasses also, especially in the winter (Rye).

CONTACT DERMATITIS aka POISON IVY

Three plants—Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac contain an oily substance called urushiol that causes a red bumpy rash in many people (only 25% don't react to it!). Also, you may not have a problem with it for years and then something makes you perceptible to it (such as a stressed out immune system).

If you think you have come in contact with one of these plants, wash the area with soap and water ASAP. If you do it within 15-20 minutes, you may stop a reaction (after that he urushiol has usually penetrated the skin and washing won't prevent a rash but can reduce the severity), according to Joseph Fowler, MD, Clinical Professor of Dermatology, at the University of Louisville. Wash any clothing, boots or tools that you wore or used. If the oil remains, it can cause a reaction weeks or months later. Also, NEVER burn any of these plants as they can cause a serious reaction!!

Of course, the key to preventing a rash in the first place is knowing what the three culprits look like and avoiding them!



1. **Poison Ivy** is a vine found in woods and open fields in the eastern half of the US. The leaves are sometimes described as almond-shaped, and they grow in threes. They produce creamy white berries in the fall.

2. **Poison Oak** is found in both eastern and western parts of the US. It looks more like a shrub and has leaves shaped like oak leaves, which turn red in the fall.

3. **Poison Sumac** is a tree found in swamps and watery areas in the eastern US. It has oval leaves with a pointed tip that can run in pairs along the stem, often with one leaf sticking out at the end. It produces cream colored berries in the fall.

A poison ivy rash may clear up on its own; but it could take 2 to 4 weeks! For faster relief, try these suggestions from John Wolf, MD, Chair of the Dermatology Department of Baylor College of Medicine.

1. Apply an over the counter hydrocortisone cream (available at drugstores, grocery stores, etc.), 2 to 3 times daily.

2. Use an anti-itch lotion that contains calamine and menthol to ease the itch and inflammation.

3. Take an over the counter antihistamine, such as Benadryl or Zyrtec, which quells itchiness by blunting your body's reaction.

4. Take an oatmeal bath with tepid water. Try a soothing product like Aveeno Skin Relief Bath Treatment (it's more concentrated than a self-made mix).

5. See a doctor if over the counter products don't help after 2 to 3 days, blisters are oozing (you may have an infection), sensitive area (like eyes or mouth) are affected, or if you develop a fever higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

WillowTalk

THE SCHOOL ZONE

By Barbara Lallinger

Exercise Your Right to Vote

As reported on the front page of April's WillowTalk, the Board of Trustees voted to call for a bond election to be held on May 10. Included in the district wide bond package (\$1.2B), as recommended by the Long-Range Planning Committee, are the following categories of projects:

- 1. Security & Safety
- 2. Student Growth
- 3. Transportation
- 4. Technology

For more Bond 2014 information, including tax rate impact, voting times (including early voting), and locations, go towww.cfisd.net/bond2014.

Gleason ES - Save the Date

5/07 (W)Willie's Ice House-SN*
5/08 – 09(Th/Fri)Mother's Day Rose Sales (during lunch)
5/09 (F)PTO Board Meeting
5/13 (Tu)Orange Leaf Yogurt- SN*
5/19 (M)PTO Spring General Meeting (elect officers for 2014-15)
5/22 (Th)Chick-fil-A-SN*
6/04 (W)5th Grade Day
6/05 (Th)Class Parties
6/06 (F)Last Day of School
*Denotes Spirit Night. Tell the cashier you are from Gleason ES and

*Denotes Spirit Night. Tell the cashier you are from Gleason ES and the PTO will receive part of the proceeds.



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"OLD GLORY"

With Memorial Day right around the corner and Independence Day (July 4th) only 6 weeks after that, please display our flag with respect and dignity. The U. S. Flag Code has guidelines for properly displaying the American flag. The rules are purely advisory, and there is no enforcement or penalty



for violating them, though there are some exceptions (see the code).

1. Whether hanging horizontally or vertically, the union should be uppermost and to the observer's left (in a window, the observer is the person on the street).

2. On Memorial Day, the flag

should fly at half-staff until noon and then be hoisted to the peak. (When flying the flag at half-staff, hoist the flag to the peak first before lowering it to half-staff; hoist it to the peak again before bringing it down for the day).

3. The flag should be displayed outside from sunrise to sunset

only, unless it is properly illuminated at night.

This is a basic list for proper display. For the full code please go to www.usflag.org.



The flag should be folded in its customary manner.
It is important that the fire be fairly large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning.

3. Place the flag on the fire.

4. The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.

5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.

6. Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes and/or ordinances.

7. BETTER YET...call a Boy Scout for handling!



DROWNING IS FAST & SILENT KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH





Ongoing: Volunteers needed to stuff & distribute water safety packets. info@colinshope.org Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed. www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador Now-June 21: Donate \$30, get a free Schlitterbahn ticket. www.tinych.org/tickets May 5th: Otter Spotter Day Storytime at Backwoods Austin from 10:30am-11:30am

Volunteer - Donate COLINSHOPE.ORG Take our Water Safety Quiz. www.colinshope.org/quiz/

Keep your children and families safe in, near and around all bodies of water.

LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING



LEARN TO SWIM



STAY AWAY FROM DRAINS WEAR LIFE JACKETS



BEACH

KEEP BACKYARDS & BATHROOMS SAFER

MULTIPLE BARRIERS AROUND WATER



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2014

May

Calendar

CONSTANT

VISUAL

SUPERVISION

CHECK POOL

& HOT TUB

FIRST

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TALKING TRASH

By: Barbara Lallinger

WINDY DAYS

We've had a lot of them lately. In fact, we were under a Wind Advisory on Tuesday, April 8th.

And of course, there was trash, trash cans and lids flying all over the place and/or turning over and spilling the contents into the street and driveways. Also, a lot of dead limbs came out of the trees. On windy days please secure your trash (or you may have to hunt down the cans & lids when you get home). Recycle is also a huge issue on these days as the milk jugs, soda/ water bottles, plastic containers boxes and especially newspapers have no weight and take flight. If you live close to me, don't worry, it seems to gravitate to my yard for me to pick up!

GREEN UP YOUR HOME

• Leaky Toilets, Sinks and Showerheads - One drip can waste up to 20 gallons of water a day! To diagnose a toilet leak, add a few drops of food color (not blue or green) to the tank.

Wait 30 minutes, check to see if the color has seeped into the bowl.

• Shower Curtains - Many are made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride), which contains volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that have been linked to a variety of health problems. Replace with cloth or look for PVC-free plastic shower curtains.

• **Closets/Dressers** – Don't use mothballs! They contain naphthalene, a chemical classified as a potential carcinogen by the EPA. Keep pests out of your clothes with pine or rosemary sachets.

• Air Fresheners – Many contain phthalates, which have been linked to health risks. Instead, grind lemon, lime or orange peels or baking soda in the garbage disposal. You can also put baking soda in trash cans. And on a pretty day (but not windy during high pollen season), open the windows and let the fresh air (or as fresh as it gets here) in.

• **Catalogs** – They're like rabbits and plastic bags...multiplying all the time! Save some trees. Get off the mailing lists and limit to the ones you really want by going to: catalogchoice.org.



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Break Free from Weight Loss Plateaus

By Marissa Balch

1. WRITE GOALS - Hand write goals down on a piece of paper that you want to work toward either on a weekly or monthly basis. The key here is to write REALISTIC & MEASURABLE ones. They can be action related ("I'm going to do 30 min of cardio Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings") or weight loss specific ("I'm going to lose 3 pounds in 4 weeks"), or even lifestyle related ("I will be in bed by 9:30 PM on the nights before my boot camp training). Pick however many goals per week or month that you can reasonably attain. Just make sure to write it down and make it official by leaving your goal list out in the open for you to see on a daily basis. For each goal you achieve, treat yourself to a non-food reward. For example: a new dress, a long bubble bath, a pedicure, etc. You deserve it! After your reward, set new goals for the next week or the next month. It will become fun to invest in your health!

2. ACCOUNT FOR EVERYTHING – If you have hit a plateau in your weight loss and you are continuing to exercise normally, it may be time to start a food log in a spiral notebook

or by using food logging apps like MyFitnessPal or MyNetDiary that will help you keep track of your caloric intake. The point is, sometimes we are overeating without even realizing where those extra calories are coming from. Every bite counts – even small ones. So, if you find yourself nibbling on a bag of chips while watching TV or stealing a bit of your kid's ice cream, it is time to crunch numbers and account for those calories. For one week, write literally every single thing down that you eat or drink. At the end of the week, you will be able to spot any unhealthy eating patterns/weak moments or times of day and adjust accordingly.

3. CLOSE THE KITCHEN – Don't even give yourself a chance to bust your great eating habits from the day by coming home to binge at night. Snacking in the evening is the toughest time to resist because that's when we have the least resolve. Fight off the munchies by eliminating the option completely. Following dinner, immediately clean up your kitchen, turn out the lights, and brush and floss your teeth. This will help you to close out the day's eating.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. Canned meat brand
- 5. Tussle
- 9. Soda
- 10. Author of "The Inferno"
- 11. Drug doer
- 12. Colder
- 13. Mr.s
- 15. Thai
- 16. Herself opposite
- 18. Kitten (2 wds.)
- 21. Government agency
- 22. Laughing dogs
- 26. Revoke
- 28. Guile
- 29. Beefy
- 30. Economics abrv.
- 31. Sold at a discount
- 32. Official document

- DOWN
- 1. Water film
- 2. Sit for a picture
- 3. Beers
- 4. Quaggy
- 5. McDonald's "Big __"
- 6. Join
- 7. Snitch
- 8. Stems of letters
- 10. Make gloomy
- 14. Opulently
- 17. Boiled
- 18. Supports
- 19. Sleep disorder
- 20. Trite
- 23. Naughty or _____
- (what Santa checks)
- 24. Lotion ingredient
- 25. Deliver by post
- 27. Southwestern Indian

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View answers online at www.peelinc.com



WillowTalk

Willowbridge/Stonebridge **Neighborhood Teenage Baby-Sitters Available!**

Are you in need of baby-sitting? Contact one of the following and help our neighborhood youth earn a little extra money.

Name	Birthday	Phone Number	Parents
Rebecca Dyer+	1998	281-955-0863	Tracy & Brian Dyer
Morgan Hurst+	1995	281-235-5641	Freddy & Kim Hurst
(Summers Only)		281-897-8910	
Rachel Sontag	1997	713-598-6792	Rosanne & Perry Sontag
Kim Cook	1997	832-237-9541	Glenn & Maureen Cook
Darien Holley	1999	832-253-8786	Darcele Holley
+ Red Cross Certified			

Pet Sitter / Plant Watering

Tommy Hamner	1998	281-469-5782	Melissa & Findley Hamner
Rachel Sontag	1997	713-598-6792	Rosanne & Perry Sontag
Abby Cook	2000	832-237-9541	Glenn & Maureen Cook
Emily Cook	2000	832-237-9541	Glenn & Maureen Cook
Darien Holley	1999	832-253-8786	Darcele Holley
Chryssy Janoschak	1998	281-610-0939	Tammy & Mark Janoschak

ATTENTION TEENAGERS

The Teenage Job Seekers listing service is offered free of charge to all Willowbridge/Stonebridge teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to willowbridgenews@gmail.com by the 8th of the month!



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