

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CANYON CREEK

Canyon Creek CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 10



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TRAVIS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- LOCK YOUR CARS!!!!
- Get to know your neighbors! Report suspicious activity immediately!
- Secure your vehicles, homes, garage doors at all times. (If you have an alarm, use it!) Remove garage door openers from your vehicle at night and when you are out of town.
- Utilize timers for lights, radios, and televisions to give the appearance that someone is home when you are out of town.
- Secure patio doors with a rod.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lit.
- Take pictures of valuables and keep them stored in a secure location.
- Keep an inventory of all serial numbers for valuable items that can be given to Law Enforcement to track your items if stolen.
- Never leave a vacation message on your answering machine.
- Have a friend or family member pick up newspaper and mail, or stop delivery until you return.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed, to prevent hiding places.
- Park in well-lit areas at night.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight. Lock them in the trunk or take them inside.
- Organize a community watch program in your neighborhood.
- Secure all windows and doors at all times.

DON'T BE A VICTIM

CitizenObserver is being used by the Travis County Sheriff's Office to communicate information to Citizens ranging from crime alerts and offender notifications. Be in touch with what's happening! Visit www.citizenobserver.com today and Be Informed!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-5556
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	

SCHOOLS

Canyon Creek Elementary.....	512-428-2800
Grisham Middle School.....	512-428-2650
Westwood High School	512-464-4000

UTILITIES

Pedernales Electric.....	512-219-2602
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service.....	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies.....	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig.....	512-472-2822
AT&T	
New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
Repair.....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service.....	512-485-5555
Repairs.....	512-485-5080

OTHER NUMBERS

Balcones Postal Office	512-331-9802
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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	512-263-9181
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DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL?

View the current issue of *The Canyon Chronicle* on the 1st day of each month at www.peelinc.com

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

HACKBERRY PSYLLIDS

Late summer into fall, people may notice tiny insects that are mottled grayish-brown collecting near windows, especially if hackberry trees are nearby. Hackberry psyllids (pronounced sill-ids) look like tiny cicadas and are actually closely related to them. Adults are about 1/8 an inch long.

Another name for hackberry psyllids is hackberry nipple gall maker. Adults lay their eggs on hackberry leaves in the spring. When eggs hatch, the psyllid feeds on the leaf and the leaf responds by developing a small pocket around the insect. The pocket is called a gall. Hackberry trees do not show long term damage from the galls or feeding of the psyllids, but the galls can make the tree unsightly.



These insects are not harmful to humans or companion animals. In the fall, the insects are searching for overwintering sites. They normally overwinter under the bark of trees, but sometimes they will utilize whatever crack or crevice they can find. This, along with the psyllids being attract to lights at night, can lead them near doors and windows and sometimes they end up inside the home.

To manage fall invasion of hackberry psyllids:

- Use fine mesh (18) screening
- Reduce outdoor lighting or use bulbs that are less attractive to insects
- Use sealant to seal cracks and crevices
- Insects that find their way indoors can be vacuumed up

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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PRUNING GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION OF OAK WILT IN TEXAS

Now is the time to Prune your Oaks Trees

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.

(Continued on Page 4)

The biggest change to ever hit Austin City Government is happening now. For the first time, geographic districts have been drawn and 10 new council members will be elected from all over Austin.

District 6, in Northwest Austin, will finally get the chance to elect someone to represent our area on the Austin City Council. No council member has ever served who lived in the neighborhoods in District 6 while serving.

The municipal election date has also moved from May to November 4th, meaning the non-partisan City Council elections are being held down-ballot from the partisan Governor's race for the first time.



Matt Stillwell knows District 6 well, spending most of his life in and around the area. He's called Austin home for over 24 years.

His understanding of the region and appreciation of the character of Austin make him the best candidate for our area on the Austin City Council.

Connect with the campaign:

www.mattstillwell.com | matt@mattstillwell.com

Matt's service to our community includes:

- Chairperson, RRISD School Health Advisory Council
- Member, Hunter's Chase Architectural Control Committee
- Graduate, 2014 Leadership Austin Essential program
- Member, RRISD Bond Oversight Committee
- Member, Superintendent's District Grading Committee
- Member, Anderson Mill Elem. Site Based Advisory Committee
- Secretary, Anderson Mill Elementary PTA
- Volunteer Coach, 6 seasons, Neighborhood Sports youth flag football
- 10 year owner and operator of 2 Austin small businesses



Pol. adv. paid for by Matt Stillwell for City Council. Jade Chang Sheppard, Treasurer.

This campaign has agreed to comply with the contribution and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Chapter and has agreed to abide by the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

and many others...

- Avery Ranch
- Barton Creek
- Bee Cave
- Bella Vista
- Belterra
- Canyon Creek
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
- Davenport Ranch
- Forest Creek
- Highland Park West Balcones
- Hometown Kyle
- Hunter's Chase
- Jester Estates
- Lakeway
- Lakewood
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Lost Creek
- Meadows of Bushy Creek
- Meridian
- Pemberton Heights
- Plum Creek
- Prairie on the Creek
- Ranch at Brushy Creek
- River Place
- Round Rock Ranch
- Sendera
- Shady Hollow
- Sonoma
- Steiner Ranch
- Stone Canyon
- Tarrytown
- Teravista
- Travis Country West
- Twin Creeks
- Villages of Westen Oaks
- West Lake Hills
- Westside at Buttercup Creek
- Wood Glen

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Pruning (Continued on Page 4)

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.

Nature Watch

by Jim and
Lynne Weber

FIELDS OF GOLD

Cooler temperatures and shorter days mark the onset of autumn, and the golden colors of the season begin to surround us. Among the amber and scarlet hues making an appearance in the landscape, one cannot help but notice two of our most common fall-blooming native plants: Goldeneye (*Viguiera dentata*) and Prairie Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*).

A member of the sunflower family, Goldeneye is a bushy, drought-tolerant, multi-branched plant that tends to grow in colonies, providing rich swaths of golden color along our roadsides and in open areas. It has narrow leaves and numerous 1.5 inch daisy-like flowers at the tips of long, slender stalks. Growing to 3 feet tall in full sun or up to 6 feet tall in partial shade, this plant is native not only to Texas but to Arizona and New Mexico as well. It prefers relatively dry, partially shaded areas such as woodland edges and open prairies, and in Mexico is also known by the common name Chimalacate.

The mid to late fall blooms of Goldeneye not only provide seasonal color, but provide for native wildlife as well. Goldeneye is the larval food plant for both the Bordered Patch and Cassius Blue butterflies, and if spent flower stalks are left to stand through most of the winter, they will provide good seed forage for Lesser Goldfinches and other birds. Infusions of this plant are still used today as an antibacterial treatment for baby rash.

Prairie Goldenrod, also called Gray Goldenrod, is a slender-stemmed plant 1.5 to 2 feet tall, that blooms from June through October. A member of the aster family, it has thin, coarsely-toothed leaves and yellow flowers that are borne on the upper side of hairy stalks, arching out and downward to create a vase-shaped flower cluster. Individual plants bloom at various times, extending the flowering



Goldeneye
(Photo by Joseph A. Marcus)



Prairie Goldenrod
(Photo by R. W. Smith)

season, but they are most noticeable in fall, especially when paired with purple Gayfeather and red Autumn Sage. An excellent addition to a wildflower meadow or a sunny garden,

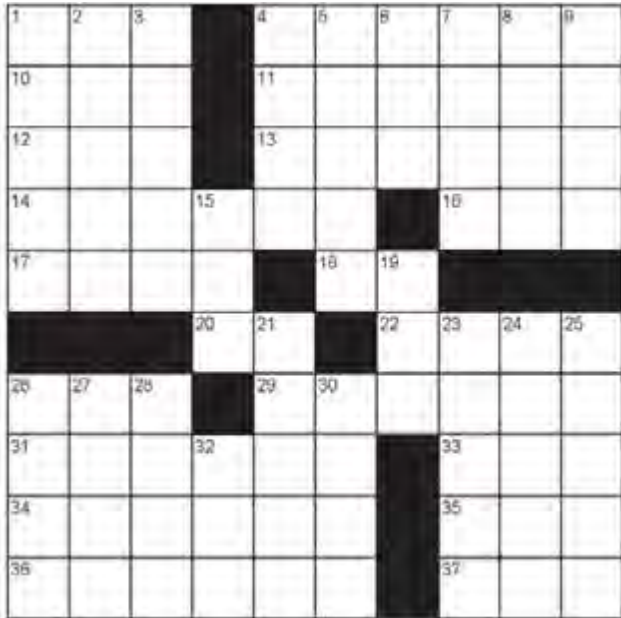
Prairie Goldenrod is naturally found in dry, open woods and upland prairies, and does well in full sun to part shade. A carefree plant, it can become invasive if left alone, but is also easily controlled.

Of special value to bees and butterflies for its pollen and nectar, and to several species of finches for its seeds, Prairie Goldenrod was also used by Native Americans to treat jaundice and kidney disorders, and as a wash for burns and skin ulcers. The Navajo burned the leaves as incense, and used the seeds for food.

As you wander along roadways and pathways this fall, admire these fields of gold that delight not only our senses, but provide a bountiful harvest for our wild neighbors 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, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Advertisements
4. Be good
10. Christmas month
11. Like some clothing
12. Wing
13. Eye part
14. Mucus
16. Admiral (abbr.)
17. Level
18. Yard (abbr.)
20. Spielberg's alien
22. Adjoin
26. Wield
29. Lubricators
31. Seizes
33. Mouser
34. Cover Girl's competitor
35. Snacked
36. Aflame
37. Distant

DOWN

1. Adjust
2. Headquarters of British India
3. Balancer
4. Small town
5. Opposite of ally
6. Clash
7. East
8. Sell
9. Student's dread
15. Before, poetically
19. Eastern state
21. Transparent gem
23. Coffee shop order
24. Non ___
25. Organic compound
26. Ca. University
27. Pig
28. Royalty
30. Island
32. Body of water

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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60 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year.*

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*Source: Texas DFPS, Watch Kids Around Water



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CONSTANT
VISUAL
SUPERVISION



LEARN
TO
SWIM



WEAR
LIFE
JACKETS



MULTIPLE
BARRIERS
TO WATER



KEEP BACKYARDS
& BATHROOMS
SAFER



CHECK POOL
& HOT TUB
FIRST



STAY AWAY
FROM
DRAINS



BE SAFER
AT THE
BEACH



LEARN CPR
& REFRESH
SKILLS YEARLY

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