

Legend OAKS

October 2014

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A Newsletter for the Residents of Legend Oaks

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Austin Branch promotes diversity in membership and equity in mission

American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a mouthful to say but its mission is simple – to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. The Austin AAUW was founded in 1923 by some of Austin's outstanding female leaders in religious, civic and cultural activities.

Reproductive choice, equal pay, domestic violence prevention, workplace discrimination, and promotion of STEM education are just some of the issues that AAUW promotes on behalf of women in Austin and throughout the world.

The Austin branch of AAUW has appealed to new members over the last year, partly due to recent legislative priorities and court decisions at the state and national levels, which many view as a threat to women's employment. Some of the new time are all the honorary members joined during the height of their careers several decades ago to make a difference who support women's issues.

Our oldest member and former branch president Kay Goodwin, who was instrumental in the publication of *Women in Early Texas* in 1975, and the founding of the Lifetime Learning Institute in 1977.

Membership and SW Austin member Diane Breyer entices prospective members by saying: "I can't tell you how much this group of women has enriched my life. I retired from teaching, like many of our members have done, and really missed the camaraderie of smart women. But we are not all educators; we are in business, social work, law, science, and engineering. We have a love of learning and a desire to help others achieve their dreams in common."

The Austin branch hosts many diverse events including an upcoming conversation with Dr. Shirley Franklin, visiting professor of Ethics and Political Values at the LBJ School, about women shaping public policy, scheduled for October 8; an update on the creative direction of Austin Playhouse from its artistic director, soon to be on November 11; and a briefing about human trafficking in Austin and a broadcast from Dr. Noel Busch, Director of UT's Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. More information is available at:

<http://austin-tx.aauw.net/>



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Protect Yourself Against CYBERCRIME



1. Passwords

Nothing is more effective than changing your online passwords regularly. Make the passwords more complicated by combining letters, numbers, special characters (minimum 10 characters in total) and change them on a regular basis. Don't include personal info in your passwords (like birthdates, pets' names, etc.). Cumbersome as it is, use different user ID / password combinations for different accounts and avoid writing them down.

2. Secure your computer

Firewalls are the first line of cyber defense; they block connections to unknown or bogus sites and will keep out some types of viruses and hackers. Use anti-virus/malware software

Prevent viruses from infecting your computer by installing and regularly updating anti-virus software. Prevent spyware from infiltrating your computer by installing and updating anti-spyware software.

3. Protect your Data

Use encryption for your most sensitive files such as tax returns or financial records, make regular back-ups of all your important data, and store it in another location.

4. Be Social-Media Savvy

Make sure your social networking profiles are set to private. Exclude the following items from any of your social media profiles: Birthdate/place, Mother's maiden name, home address, planned trips, phone number, names/ages of your children. Be cautious when giving out personal information on the Internet.

5. Secure your Mobile Devices

Be aware that your mobile device—not just your computer—is vulnerable to viruses and hackers. Download applications only from trusted sources. Lock your mobile device/tablet.

6. Install the latest operating system updates

Keep your applications and operating system current with the latest system updates. Turn on automatic updates to prevent potential attacks on older software.

7. Secure your wireless network

Wi-Fi (wireless) networks at home are vulnerable to intrusion if they are not properly secured. Review and modify default settings. Public Wi-Fi, a.k.a. "Hot Spots", are also vulnerable. Avoid conducting financial or corporate transactions on these networks.

8. Avoid being scammed

Always think before you click on a link or file of unknown origin. Don't feel pressured by any emails, including pop-ups that threaten you to act immediately or else. Check the source of the message. Only trust websites with a URL that starts with https. Never reply to emails that ask you to verify your information or confirm your user ID or password.



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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.

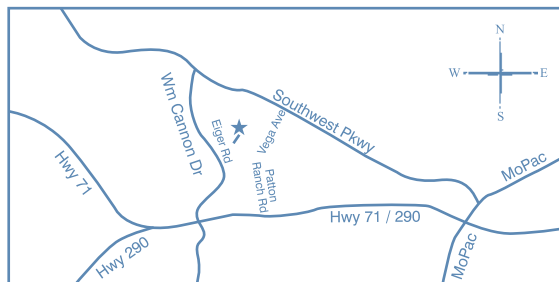
To manage fall invasion of hackberry psyllids:

- 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

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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.

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>.

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- 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.

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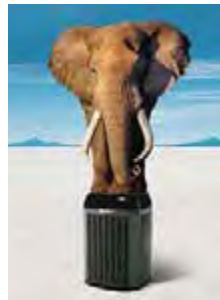
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