

West Lake Hills ECHO

Volume 5, Issue 6

June 2016

PRUNING DILEMMA,

PART ONE

I am most frequently asked the question: "When is the best time to prune my trees?". If only you all knew what a complicated question that is! Here comes my long-winded response which is almost never explained this thoroughly to a curious client and even here, it will be a cliff notes version.

We will take a seasonal evaluation of pruning's pros and cons. First, let's start with Spring. During spring, the flow of sap and tree growth is at its highest. On the positive side – the tree's response to the pruning wound/injury is the quickest at forming what's called wound-wood; its purpose is to completely grow over the injury and minimize the amount and extent of dieback, rot, etc. to the tree. Also, new growth is invigorated even more by pruning. On the negative side – sap flow is increased and pathogens, insect pests and the like become a higher threat.

During Summer, the increased heat and lack of soil moisture lowers the amount of sap and so pathogen as well as pest dangers are somewhat less than Spring, and the time for the tree to cure its pruning wood is faster than in the Spring. Unfortunately, due to the greater likelihood of drought, which weakens the tree's immune system, it often can't resist even some minor threats (such as hypoxylon canker). New growth also is spurred in other areas of the tree during the Summer – though not as much as in Spring. If adequate moisture is not present it can actually become a stressor on the tree. Furthermore, the formation of wound-wood from callus tissue is not as good as Springtime.

Fall is, for the most part, a balance between the Spring and Summer months – less woundwood formation than Summer, less pathogens/pests than Summer.

Winter has one of the least amount of pathogen or pest threat, yet it is also the worst time for woundwood growth. The benefit of increasing tree growth is practically non-existent. Also, during severe temperature changes and winter storms, the wood can actually expand and contract on larger cuts opening up cracks that greatly increase the extent of the injury into the parent branch or tree trunk.

My final position on the best season to prune is that "when is not the most important question"! The most important question is "Who should I select to do the pruning?". With that said, Spring is the best time to prune your trees from a woundwood standpoint and to increase the growth of your tree. It is the assumption and practice of pruning experts throughout the world who try to perform most pruning operations during Spring.

It is too much to cover in this article but my Pruning Dilemma Part Two will scrutinize assumptions leading to the premise to not prune oak trees during the best pruning season of the year! Texas Forest Service as well as others often recommend "no pruning". Again, the vital question is "Who" not "When" from my professional view.

Questions or comments this article or previous articles have generated, may be directed to me at: kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Police Department	512-327-1195
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Fire Department Administration	512-539-3400
Travis County Animal Control.....	512-972-6060

SCHOOLS

Eanes ISD	512-732-9000
Westlake High School.....	512-732-9280
Ninth Grade Center	512-732-9260
West Ridge Middle School	512-732-9240
Hill Country Middle School	512-732-9220
Valley View Elementary.....	512-732-9140
Forest Trail Elementary.....	512-732-9160
Eanes Elementary.....	512-732-9100
Cedar Creek Elementary	512-732-9120
Bridge Point Elementary	512-732-9200
Barton Creek Elementary.....	512-732-9100

UTILITIES

Water District 10	512-327-2230
Wastewater	
Crossroads Utility Service 24 Hour Number....	512-246-1400
New Accounts	512-402-1990
Austin Energy	512-322-9100
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
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

City Administration	512-327-3628
Municipal Court	512-327-1863
Property Tax.....	512-854-9473
Appraisal District	512-834-9317
Chamber of Commerce.....	512-306-0023
City of West Lake Hills	www.westlakehills.org

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	512-263-9181
Editor.....	westlakehills@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

The West Lake Hills Echo is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use the West Lake Hills Echo contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

The Children's Center Of Austin **NOW ENROLLING**

Explore Texas! Summer Camp 2016

childrenscenterofaustin.com

CCOA-STEINER RANCH	CCOA NW AUSTIN	CCOA-WESTLAKE
4308 N. Quinlan Park Rd.	6507 Jester Boulevard	8100 Bee Caves Rd
Suite 100	Building 2	Austin, TX 78746
Austin, TX 78732	Austin, TX 78750	512.329.6633
512.266.6130	512.795.8300	

CEDAR MYTHS DEBUNKED

I am frequently hired to help clients approach development of their raw tract of land they recently purchased. Without exception, I encounter surprise and curiosity when I strongly discourage removal of all the cedar (correctly called Ashe Juniper – it is not in the cedrus family). The most common misconceptions I encounter go as follows:

1. Cedar isn't a native tree right?

Ashe Juniper is actually a Texas native tree, which was found mostly in mountainous rocky areas (i.e.: the common name Mountain Juniper). Also, it was found in locations where natural fires or fires ignited by the Native Americans did not spread to.

2. Cedar is a very invasive tree!

Ashe Juniper is a successful native plant that is unchecked in reproduction, when the natural cycle (which includes fire) is significantly altered by human efforts. The reasoning of this argument would also conclude that Live Oaks are also invasive. Due to the lack of fires and the avoidance of removing any oaks during clearing of land, we now have the catastrophic consequence of interconnected roots across the entire hill country and the capacity of the oak wilt fungal virus wiping out the vast majority of our Live Oak trees. Historically, our oak motts were much fewer and mostly separated from one another preventing the devastation we now experience.

3. Cedar is a water hog and is sucking all the water out of my land.

Ashe Juniper is actually one of the most efficient water users in our entire cadre of native trees. It is usually the last species to die in a drought. It grows very successfully in places like Junction and Rock Springs, where few other species are able to grow. It is true they are evergreen, but the amount of water they require per diameter inch is less than a Live Oak. I say this not to advocate for the removal of all Live Oaks by any means, rather to show the reasoned conclusion of removal of Live Oaks will also decrease significantly the absorption of water from the ground by a tree species! The fundamental fact behind the shade value of trees to land is this: the Sun exponentially more than any amount or type of plant, causes the desiccation of the soil. Use of a tension-meter in an Ashe Juniper copse and then outside in a neighboring field will substantiate this.

4. Cedar will turn my land into arid, infertile land.

Ashe Juniper significantly minimizes erosion of topsoil. Watch a slow motion video of the effects of a full-speed rain drop on soil. By contrast, Ashe Juniper slowly drips the rain onto the ground. It is a fact that the topsoil under a cedar is deeper. Not only that, it is nutrient-rich humus. The dead needles condition the soil where beneficial bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi populations thrive; the berries and needles significantly help lower the alkaline soil ph.

5. All cedars around good trees should be removed though right?

Actually, Ashe Junipers situated around the perimeter of other trees help buffer them from winds minimizing erosion plus cool the micro-environment (soil temperature, cambial tissue in trunk, canopy of tree near Ashe Juniper) significantly around the tree. In addition, it reduces the loss of moisture of that tree as a result of the effects of the sun to its root system outside its own canopy.

Summary

Generally, my initial approach to Ashe Juniper removal on raw land is a 60% removal and 40% retention. With time, more removal is often warranted. Obviously, Ashe Juniper in a field for grazing or for growing coastal hay is a negative value. But even for livestock, a mature Ashe Juniper can offer excellent shade. Also, raising the Ashe Juniper canopy to 3' or 4' can allow for grass to grow underneath it. Furthermore, wildlife absolutely needs Ashe Juniper as well as highly desirable rare natives such as the Texas Madrone.



SUMMER FUN WITH YOUR KIDS

Austin Zoo (austinzoo.org)

10807 Rawhide Trail, Austin 78736, 512-288-1490

Non-profit zoo with over 350 rescued animals - lions, tigers, monkeys, and reptiles. Includes a petting zoo with goats, deer, sheep, and llamas. A 20-minute train ride allows you to see emus, alpacas, and longhorns.

Austin Steam Train Association

(www.austinsteamtrain.org) 401 East Whitestone Blvd, Austin 78613 512-477-8468

Ride a real vintage passenger train. Trip takes about 3 hours. Themed rides offered throughout the year.

Blazer Tag Adventure Center (www.blazertag.com)

1701 W. Ben White Blvd, Austin, 512-462-0202

Suitable for kids 7 and up. Largest lazer tag arena in Texas. Three story, 10,000 square foot, with ramps & ropes, indoor rope course, video game arcade, concession stand.

Chapparral Ice Center (www.chaparralice.com)

2525 Anderson Lane, Austin, 78757 512-451-5012

Indoor ice-skating rink. Skate rental available. Free one-time 30-minute introductory class for beginners age 6 & up on Saturdays at noon.

Dinosaur Park (www.thedinopark.com)

893 Union Chapel Road, Cedar Creek, TX 78612 512-321-6262

Realistic life-size dinosaurs in a park setting. The walk through the park takes about 45 minutes. Bring a picnic, as there is not a concession stand.

Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms (www.pioneerfarms.org)

11418 Sprinkle Cut Off Road, Austin 78754 512-837-1215

Living history museum that shows what farm life was like in the 1800s.

(Continued on Page 5)

“ EDITOR WANTED ”

Call today to find out
how you can contribute
to your newsletter!

512.263.9181

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2016



scholars

artists



athletes

servants

We wish our 103 graduates the best of luck on their next great adventure!

www.sasaustin.org

(Continued on Page 4)

Jump USA Trampoline Park (www.jumpusapark.com)

10601 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin 78753 512-838-6200

40,000 square feet indoor sports and recreation center. Large trampoline, dodge ball court, indoor pool with floating hamster balls, bounce houses, and game arcade.

Kiddie Acres (www.kiddieacres.com)

4800 Howard Lane, Austin 78728 512-255-4131

Old fashioned amusement park on 5 acres. Includes carousel rides, Ferris wheel, pony rides, miniature train, 18-hole miniature golf course. Geared to toddlers and young children.

Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex (www.myec.net)

1156 Hargrave St. Austin 78702 512-472-6932

Owned by City of Austin, 154-seat movie theater, 16 lane glow-in-the-dark bowling alley, video arcade area, food court, 12,500 foot roller skating rink.

Mt. Playmore (mtplaymore.com)

13609 North IH 35, Austin, 78753, 512-989-8886

3000 foot playscape, arcade, restaurant with healthy food choices. Large toddler only area with age appropriate toys, activities, and play elements.

Playland Skating Center (playlandskatecenter.net)

8822 McCann Dr., Austin, 78757 512-452-1901

Largest roller skating rink in Austin. Wooden skating rink with light show, fog machine, disco ball, and sound system. Admission includes skate rental. Includes indoor playground.

Thinkery Austin Children's Museum (thinkeryaustin.org)

1830 Simond Ave., Austin, 78723 512-469-6200

Museum that helps kids learn with hands-on exhibits. Activities to interest kids from infants to 11 years old. Special play areas for infants and toddlers.

Texas Memorial Museum (tmm.utexas.edu)

2400 Trinity St., Austin, 78705 512-471-1604

Natural history museum located close to LBJ Library. Includes dinosaurs and fossils, Texas wildlife, and gems and minerals. It has a gift shop with lots of fun and interesting gifts for kids.



THE LAW OFFICE OF
TIM WHITTEN
FAMILY FOCUSED • SOLUTION ORIENTED

Tim Whitten

Board Certified Family Law Attorney

812 San Antonio Street, Suite 401
Austin, TX 78701

www.whitten-law.com
info@whitten-law.com
512.478.1011

Collaborative Divorce
Board Certified Family Law Attorney
25 Years Experience
Let us help you understand your options.



Practice Areas:

Adoption | Grandparent and Non-parental Rights | Collaborative Law
High-Asset Divorce | Modifications of Custody, Possession, and Support



Local Running Group Seeks to Break Top Myths about Marathon Running

USA Fit Austin Launches New Season in Time for National Running Day

With National Running Day just around the corner on June 1, USA Fit Austin seeks to break the top myths about what an actual long distance runner looks like. The local full and half marathon training group program is accepting online registration for its 2016 season now through June 30 at www.AustinFit.com. The season will kick off with two orientation events on June 11 and 18 in the TXDOT Parking Lot at 150 East Riverside Drive.

“Most people don’t believe they can complete a full or half marathon for various reasons,” said USA Fit Austin Organizer and Head Coach Linda Brown. “Our mission at USA Fit is to show people they absolutely can succeed by providing training plans for every fitness level in a fun, non-intimidating and safe environment.”

Brown herself joined USA Fit Austin in 2005. Now, as a coach, she hopes to bring the same motivation and encouragement that her coaches and fellow members gave her to help runners around the Austin area reach their own personal goals.

According to Brown, the top myths about marathon running include:



- Marathoners must be young.
- Marathoners must be athletes.
- Running long distances is dangerous to one’s health.
- Runners must be a certain weight or size to successfully run a full or half marathon.

She said that members of USA Fit Austin defy all of these myths and have gone on to complete half and full marathons during their very first seasons with the group as well as meet personal health and fitness goals.

(Continued on Page 7)

COLIN'S HOPE
WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG

NOBODY IS DROWNPROOF WATCH KIDS AROUND WATER

COLIN HOLST

22 Texas children have already fatally drowned in 2016

DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

THESE WATER SAFETY TIPS CAN SAVE LIVES

- WATCH KIDS & KEEP IN ARM'S REACH
- LEARN TO SWIM
- WEAR LIFE JACKETS
- MULTIPLE BARRIERS AROUND WATER
- KEEP YOUR HOME SAFER
- CHECK WATER SOURCES FIRST
- STAY AWAY
- PRACTICE DRAIN SAFETY
- BE SAFER IN OPEN WATER
- LEARN CPR

BECOME a Water Guardian for your child

TAKE the Water Safety Quiz → PREVENT drowning

www.colinshope.org/quiz

LEARN more at www.colinshope.org

(Continued from Page 6)

“The most rewarding part of our job as coaches is to see members achieve so much more than they thought possible, no matter their fitness level or stage in life,” said Brown. “The only thing we ask our members to show up with is a goal and the passion to meet it. We take care of the rest.”

Registration for USA Fit Austin is \$135 for new members and \$105 for returning members. Runners meet Saturday mornings for ability-based group trainings, enjoy weekly seminars and social events throughout the season and benefit from the encouragement and expertise of certified coaches. To learn more and to register, visit www.AustinFit.com.



STEVE'S PLUMBING REPAIR

Master License: M-39722

- Water Pressure Problems
- Sewer & Drain Service
- Fiber Optic Drain Line Inspections
- Free Estimates
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

Steve Brouger
512.276.7476

2605 Buell Ave



AUSTIN GALLERIES

Bring Art, Antiques & Clients Together Since 1964

Offering the Following Fine Art Services:

Appraisals of Fine Art & Antiques
Consultation & Purchasing
Brokering & Consignment
Restoration & Framing
Estate Sales

www.austingalleries.com
info@austingalleries.com 512-495-9363
Gallery Owner: Ann Attal



PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St. South
Lakeway, TX 78734

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

WES

JUST LISTED

709 WINDSONG | List Price \$1,350,000 | MLS #4456878 | 4 BR | 3 BA



A truly singular property in close-in West Lake Hills with panoramic canyon views on 1.62 acres. (Some city views and potential for more. Comprehensive updates highlight classic, original "Art Nouveau" elements of the home with contemporary features to create a transitional, timeless feel. Open floor plan 4BR/3BA with formal dining, master bed/office wing and bedroom wing. An additional flex space can be used as office/study, pantry or wine room. Large bright laundry room and lots of storage throughout. Windsong Trail is a very special street in West Lake Hills. Whether you enjoy entertaining or a private retreat close to nature, this home checks both boxes.

Contact us for information on our upcoming listing on Trail of Madrones.



CLAUDIA SCOTT
REALTOR®, ABR, CNE, GRI
512-480-0848 x 139 ofc
512-373-0745 cell
claudia@moreland.com
claudiabscott.com



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL

SEAN KUBICEK
REALTOR®, ABR, GRI

512-480-0848 x 198 ofc
512-826-1135 cell
sean@moreland.com
seankubicek.com

