



# The Gazette

SEPTEMBER 2016  
VOLUME 9 ISSUE 9

## **Family Night and meet your neighbors!**

**FREE Movie in the Park on Friday evening September 16th**  
**Enjoy the park and bring your chairs and blankets**

**Dick Nichols District Park**

**8011 Beckett Rd., Austin, TX 78749**

**Rain delay- Call Lori Goto 512-461-1577**



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance .....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency .....	512-974-0845

### SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker.....	512-414-2584
Mills .....	512-841-2400
Patton .....	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki .....	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin .....	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

### UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing) .....	512-494-9400
Emergency .....	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service .....	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing .....	512-219-2602
Problems .....	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service .....	1-800-288-2020
Repair .....	1-800-246-8464
Billing .....	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste .....	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

### OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles .....	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged .....	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2016

National Night Out is a great opportunity for citizens and law enforcement to partner up against crime.

This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016, from 7 to 9 p.m.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support and participation in crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
- Let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

During the event, residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin and across the nation are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics. Events such as cookouts, block parties and neighborhood walks will all occur simultaneously throughout the city and nationwide.

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## NatureWatch: Sun Trackers

by Jim and Lynne Weber

*Common Sunflower*



*Maximillian Sunflower*



This time of year, the most notable family of plants are the Helianthus, or sunflowers. From the Greek 'helios' or sun and 'anthos' or flower, these plants are usually tall annuals or perennials that during their growth phase exhibit a subtle behavior in the daylight hours. This behavior, called heliotropism, is the ability for the young flower buds and leaves to gently tilt toward the sun, tracking it as it moves across the sky. By the time the flower heads mature, they are stationary but generally facing east to greet the rising sun.

Sunflowers are typically tall plants with one to multiple flower heads, consisting of bright yellow ray florets or flowers, surrounding yellow or maroon disc florets. In wild or native species, the rough and hairy stems are normally branched, and the leaves are often sticky and lance or heart-shaped. Sunflowers also exhibit phyllotaxis, or the arrangement of leaves on a stem that forms a distinct pattern, in this case a repeating spiral. Additionally, the disc florets also display a phyllotactic pattern, one that creates the optical effect of criss-crossing spirals in the flower's center.

In our area, the two most abundant sunflowers are the Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) and the Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*). Blooming from May to October, the Common Sunflower grows on dry soils, especially in disturbed areas. It can reach 1.5 to 8 feet tall, and various parts of the branched stems can be either green or dark purple. The heart-shaped leaves are coarse and covered in rough hairs, and grow from 2.5 to 10 inches long. Up to 4 inches across, the flower heads have yellow ray flowers and reddish brown disc flowers. As their scientific name suggests, these plants are annuals.

Maximilian Sunflowers, on the other hand, are perennials that bloom in September and October. They grow 1 to 6 feet tall in colonies on both the dry ground of prairies and the moist ground of roadside ditches and other low places. Shorter, rough hairs cover the narrow lance-shaped leaves, which average 2 to 4 inches long. The 1.5 to 3 inch wide flower heads have yellow ray flowers surrounding

yellow disc flowers, with numerous flower heads growing along the unbranched stems.

Aside from their aesthetic value to humans, sunflowers are generally palatable to deer and numerous species of birds eat their seeds. Their flower heads support nectaring bees, and they are the food plants for several butterfly species such as the Bordered Patch and Silvery Checkerspot. When mixed with other native annuals, these sun trackers provide good cover for many species of wildlife, and would be a great addition to your native wildscape.

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press, and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com) if you enjoy reading these articles!

“  
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## Chlorosis

*[abnormal reduction or loss of the normal green coloration of leaves]*



Late summer to early fall is the time when this particular tree malady becomes most pronounced. The species of trees most commonly chlorotic are: Shumard Red Oak, Silver Maple, Chinese Tallow, Bald Cypress, and Live Oaks. Except for the Chinese Tallow

and Silver Maple – the other species are most likely from seed stock or cuttings of parent plants that were not local and have no acclimation to our alkaline clay soil. Knowledgeable local nurseries do not sell you trees that are meant to grow in acidic, peat moss soil. In the early stages the tree's leaves will turn from green in the spring to a lime or yellow and finally have some leaf margin death and then curl up and fall off the tree. The later stages of this malady is characterized by the severe deformation and stunting of tree leaf size as well as new spring leaves start out the year yellow. Chlorosis can and usually does start a tree into a downward mortality spiral. Without a healthy capacity for producing food, a tree will become weak and often will succumb to minor pest or disease issues a healthy tree could survive without treatment.

What causes this condition is a deficiency of one or more nutrients. Often times in central Texas, it is usually the micronutrients: iron and manganese; yet it can be caused also by the deficiency of the other 20+ nutrients. Fixing the problem is not as simple as putting out fertilizer. First off, the most frequently used fertilizers have little or no

*(Continued on Page 6)*



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(Continued from Page 5)



micronutrients present. Second, the deficient nutrient may be present in the soil but because of the soil polarity of our calciferous clay soil – the tree is not able to extract the nutrient. Third, if it is a tree with genetic incapacity to obtain certain nutrients present in soil, a fertilizer can just be bound up by soil after application.

Can anything be done? Yes, there are sure methods of successfully providing your tree the missing nutrients. One way is to prepare soil

drenches with fertilizers containing humic acid, chelated iron and various other nutrients in a soluble form. Another method is to do a foliar spray – basically give the tree a fertilizer shower. Yet another, and most effective, is to inject the nutrients directly into the cambium tissue of the tree. Lastly, one method of “treatment” is to dig up tree and replace it during the fall or winter season.

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

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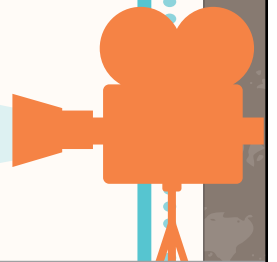
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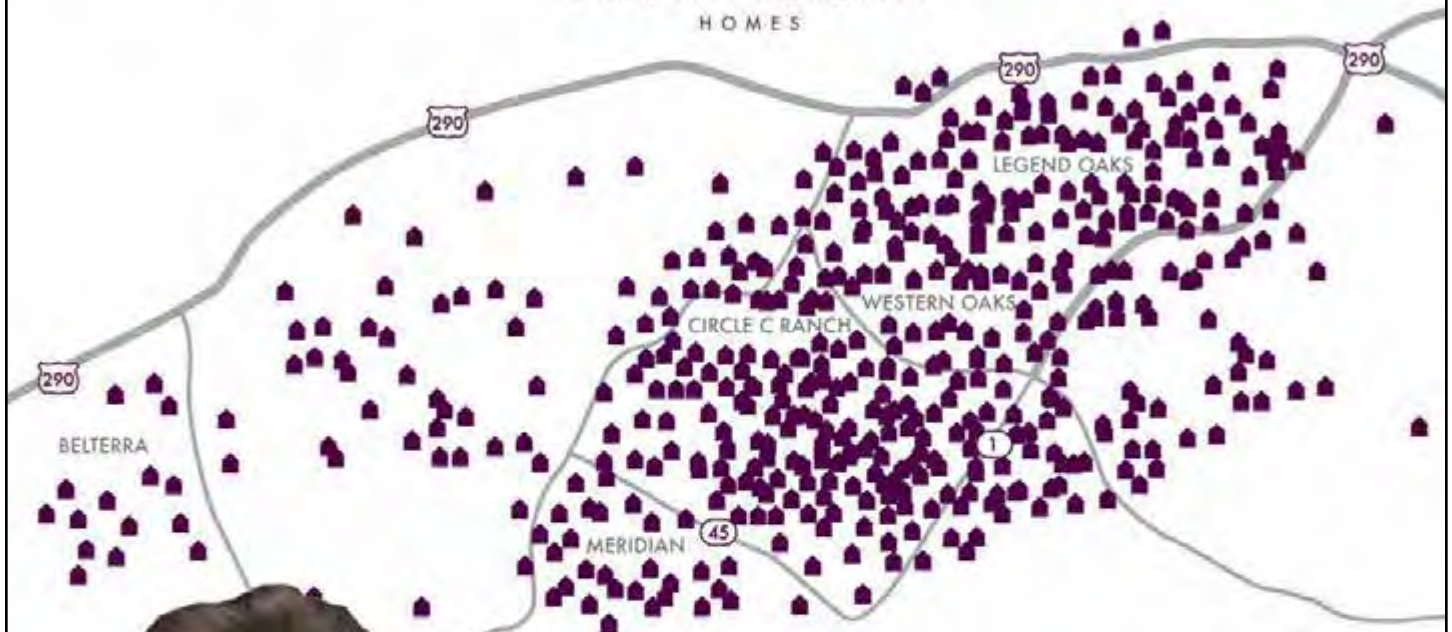
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\*Based on 2012-2016 ABOR data