

Wortham

VILLAGES



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Asian Giant Hornets

What headline can draw people away from thoughts of the current state of the world and Coronavirus? That would be MURDER HORNETS! I cannot think of a more sensationalized headline, so kudos to whomever came up with that attention grabber. This headline is popping up everywhere from social media outlets, television, newspapers, and others. Quite frankly, it makes me cringe each time I see it. Asian giant hornets (AGH) are *Vespa mandarinia* NOT "murder" hornets. If you want to use a common name instead of the scientific name, then call them by the correct common name of Asian giant hornet.

Asian giant hornets are large, around 2 inches in length, with an orangish head, brown antennae (the base of the antennae are yellow-orange), brown to black eyes and ocelli (simple, dot-like eyes located between the compound eyes). Their thorax is dark brown with greyish wings and the abdomen has alternating bands of brownish-black and yellow-orange.

Asian giant hornets are capable of inflicting a painful sting. Please note that while the sting can lead to death in some cases, it is not what typically happens. People are also capable of receiving painful stings from insects already here in Texas such as honey bees, paper wasps, yellowjackets, or even fire ants and some can die from being stung. Death by insect sting usually depends upon the number of stings and how your body chemistry reacts to venom injected by the insect. Asian giant hornets are capable of killing other insects, including honey bees and other pollinators, but they are not doing this to be vicious or killing for sport. The hornets use insects they kill as food for their larvae....just like other wasps that we have here in Texas.

We do not currently have Asian giant hornets in Texas. If you think you have these wasps, then please send samples or images to me for identification as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Service are identifying any items of concern for our clientele.

Some insects that may be confused with AGH to the untrained eye: Paper wasps are reddish brown in color & sometimes have yellow markings on their bodies and are ½-1 inches in length. Paper wasps

make paper-like nests out of chewed wood fiber that have open cells and hang from a single stalk.

Yellowjackets are yellow & black in color and are ½ in length. Bald-faced hornets are a type of yellowjacket. These wasps also make a paper-like nest, but it is enclosed with a single opening.

Cicada killer wasps have a reddish head and thorax with an abdomen that alternates with yellow and black markings. These wasps reach 1 ½ inches in length. Cicada killers burrow into the ground, so you may see holes left behind from their digging.

FACTS about Asian giant hornets in North America

1. A colony was found late last year (September 2019) in Nanaimo, British Columbia on Vancouver Island. The colony was located and destroyed.

2. A sighting and dead specimen was found in Washington state in December 2019 in Blaine, WA. This was the first reported sighting of the Asian giant hornet in the U.S.

3. It is currently unknown how the hornets entered the U.S. and genetic testing leads to the conclusion that the hornets found in BC & WA are two separate introductions.

4. Agencies are currently monitoring & trapping with lures to discover any queens or workers. They are talking about attaching radio tracking devices to captured wasps to track them back to their nest.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Paper wasps on paper nest.



Cicada killer wasp on redbud.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Life Threatening Emergency..... 911
 Fire 911
 Sheriff's Department..... 911
 Poison Control..... 800.222.1222

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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 Sheriff's Department..... 713.221.6000
 Harris County Health Dept..... 713.439.6000
 Animal Control..... 281.999.3191
 Gas - Centerpoint..... 713.659.2111
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A BIRD THAT SAYS ITS NAME A BIRD THAT SAYS ITS NAME

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



A few years ago, when I took my dog out for her last potty of the night, I heard the most beautiful bird singing. Just a few seconds later, another bird responded with the same beautiful song. I had no idea what species it was but after some research I learned it was a whippoorwill. The whippoorwill actually got its

name because of its song—three syllables with emphasis on the first and last syllables.

Whippoorwills are nocturnal. They feed exclusively on insects and start foraging 30 minutes after sunset and continue until it's too dark to see. They continue their foraging at first light and stop just before sunrise. If the moon is bright, they may hunt all night. They have large mouths and can swallow insects up to 2 inches long.

The most interesting fact about the whippoorwill is that they don't build a nest. The female will lay her eggs on the ground and cover with dead leaves or debris. Often times she'll find a spot on the north or northeast side of a shrub or plant so she's shaded during the heat of the day. Mom is responsible for incubating the eggs during the day and both Mom and Dad share the duty at night. Amazingly, whippoorwills time their breeding patterns to coincide with the lunar cycles so that the eggs hatch when there is at least a half moon. It is believed that the extra light helps in caring for her young. Within 24 hours of hatching, the baby birds instinctively move apart. The parents will also push the babies to keep them apart. It is thought that this is done to make it harder for predators to see them. The male stands guard over the nest and will hiss and spread his wings if he thinks there is a predator nearby. Another tactic used to protect the young is he will fake an injury away from the babies to draw attention away from them. While he draws the predator away from the young, the babies scatter and freeze.

At about 8 days, the down-covered babies molt and the female leaves them in the care of the male. If conditions are right, the female will often find a spot nearby and lay 2 more eggs.

TWRC Wildlife Center cares for injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife brought to us by the public. Due to the Corona Virus, we've had to alter our admission procedures. If you find an animal needing help, please call us. We will advise you on how to care for the animal until you can bring it to us: 713.468.8972

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HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT



In a time when life has come to a screeching halt, we begin to feel isolated and divided from the rest of our communities and the world as a whole.

Help us make 2020/2021 the #YearOfUnity!! Our goal is to help Texas recover and thrive by reconnecting with the world around us once again!

We have so many international teens from many different countries who are eager and ready to experience life in America and they dream of the host family who will choose to welcome them this fall. What better way to introduce your family to another country and culture without having to travel half way across the globe!

What is a host family?

- Minimum age requirement of 25. Must be able to pass a background check and have a stable home life.
- Hosts come in all shapes and sizes! Married, single, with / without children...all kinds of families are welcome!
- With the help of a Local Coordinator, Hosts are able to choose a student who fits with their family's interests and hobbies. They can begin communicating with their student once the placement is finalized in the database!
- Hosts receive monthly contact as well as 24/7 support during their hosting experience!
- Students cover all of their own personal expenses and carry their own medical insurance.
- Students arrive about 10 days prior to school starting and they depart about 7 - 10 days after school ends. Some have signed up to come for a semester (Aug. - Jan.) and most have signed up to come for the full school year (late Aug - late May/early June)

Hosts provide students with:

- 3 shared meals a day. Students cover lunch if they choose to buy hot lunch at school.
- Students can share a bedroom with a host sibling of the same sex and within 4 years of age from each other. Student must have their own bed.
- The ability to attend American public high school. Hosts would help with transportation to extracurricular activities, within reason and based on availability.
- The love of your family! Students are to be treated as a family member and will share in household chores and daily life with the family.

Help us bounce back from isolation and 2020/2021 the YearOfUnity! If you would like to hear about our student applicants to see if we have a match for you, please contact me directly at 832-455-7881, or email me at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com

GINGERBREAD VILLAGE HOLIDAY MARKET 2020

The ladies auxiliary from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is holding their gingerbread village holiday market again this year! It will be held on October 24, 2020 from 9 A.M. To 4 p.M. It is located at 6646 Addicks Satsuma Rd., Houston, TX, between West Little York and Highway 529. If you have arts, crafts or unique booths that you wish to highlight, vendor applications are being accepted. Please email gingerbreadvillage@gmail.com to start the application process or to get any questions you may have answered!



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CYPRESS/TOMBALL DEMOCRATS

June Speaker: Mike Collier, 2018 Candidate for Texas Lt. Governor



The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold its next virtual monthly meeting Tuesday, June 16, 2020. There is a meet and greet at 6:45 p.m. The general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Mike Collier graduated from Georgetown High School. He earned a bachelor's degree and M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. Collier's career experience includes working as an employee at Exxon, auditor with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and founder and chief financial officer with a Texas oil company.

Mr. Collier is passionate about investing properly in public education; closing the big-corporate property tax loophole to make property taxes fair again; closing the healthcare coverage gap; protecting Texans with preexisting conditions; criminal justice reform; sensible gun laws; ending gerrymandering; and bringing compassion back to public policy.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

For more information & access to the ZOOM Virtual meeting, contact Undrai Fizer at cytomdemocrats@gmail.com, or visit the club's Facebook page.



Albion Hurricanes FC

Did you miss tryouts? No problem, AHFC has multiple campuses in and around Houston. The club invites all interested players from the ages of 7 to 18, to contact the Campus Director about team placement. We ask that all interested players pre-register before coming out to the fields. Please follow the link below for the Campus Director's email and phone number.



[HTTPS://WWW.ALBIONHURRICANES.ORG/AFHCSTAFF](https://www.albionhurricanes.org/afhcstaff)

AHFC offers JHSL (a recreational program for 5 - 10 year olds) at our Cy Fair and Central locations and offers additional training at Katy Friday Night Academy and New Territory Thursday Night Academy. All information regarding all of the programs and camps can be found at albionhurricanes.org.



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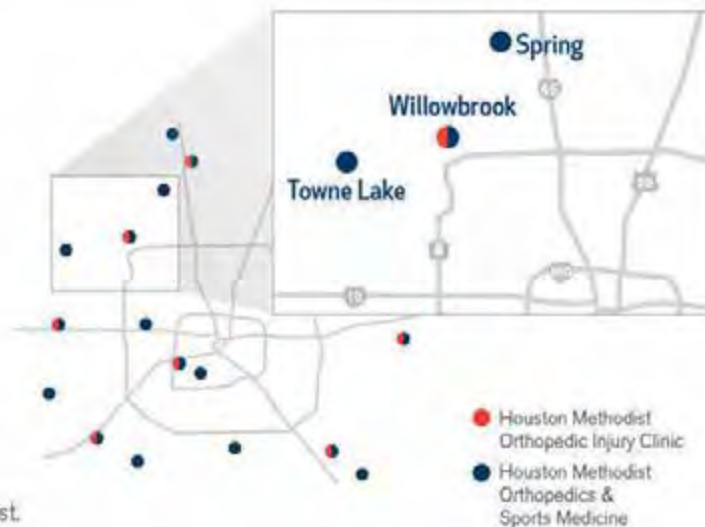


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