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MESSAGE FROM THE NWACA BOARD PRESIDENT

- Joyce Statz

It's a really busy time of the year for many of us, and your NWACA committees are contributing to that! We had very successful events during May with more Neighborhood Watch training, the Property Tax Appraisal seminar, a Murchison Pool Park work day, the Neighborhood Annual Meeting, and (tomorrow) the annual BOPA recycling event, where we take the stuff that's tough to get rid of – Batteries, Oil, Paint, and Antifreeze. There are stories below about most of these events. If you had to miss them, there are materials online for the tax appraisal session and the annual meeting – check the links on the home page at www.nwaca.org

June and July bring several more events that get us outdoors to enjoy Austin before it gets too hot! Join those taking a hike on June 7 at Stillhouse Hollow Preserve; come to the dinner and movie at Murchison Pool on June 14; and help us get ready for the 4th of July Parade. Great things are happening in this great neighborhood!

ANNUAL NWACA GARAGE SALES COMING SEPTEMBER 20 – PLAN AHEAD

- Carol Dochen

The annual NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales will be held on Saturday, September 20th. That's still a few months off, but as you rearrange things and find your family's outgrown its interest in that wonderful "whatever," put it aside for the garage sales. Again this year, NWACA will be providing yard signs and publicity for the sales for those who sign up on our web site in early September. We'll keep you informed about the details.

NWACA and NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Date	Location	Event
May 31, 8 AM to 10 AM	Doss Elementary School Parking Lot	Recycling the Tough Stuff: BOPA (Batteries, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze) – <i>Tree and Environment Committee</i>
May 31, 1 PM	Austin Terrier, Greystone Drive	Monthly Meeting of NWACA Zoning Committee
June 1, 2:00 PM	Kneaded Pleasures	Monthly Meeting of NWACA Parks Committee
June 4, noon	Mangia Pizza	Monthly Meeting of NWACA Communications Committee
June 4, 7PM	TBD; watch calendar at www.nwaca.org	Bi-Monthly Meeting of NWACA Wildlife Management Committee
June 5, 8 – 9AM	Kneaded Pleasures	NWACA Membership/Sponsorship Committee Monthly Meeting
June 7, 8-11AM	Stillhouse Hollow Preserve, 7810 Sterling Dr., just off Burney Dr.	Nature hikes and scavenger hunt as part of National Trails Day – see article below for details – <i>Parks Committee</i>
June 14, 6:30-10PM	Murchison Pool	Family Friendly event – Outdoor Movie and Pool Party – <i>Events Committee</i>

CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - STILLHOUSE HOLLOW PRESERVE – JUNE 7 - Parks Committee

Join us to learn more about the natural features, native plants, and resident and migratory birds that inhabit this NW Austin suburban setting. Jane Tillman is a Capital Area Master Naturalist and a Travis Audubon member who regularly visits Stillhouse and has recorded 86 bird species there. Mark Sanders of the Wildland Conservation Division is a cave species specialist who will discuss the geographic features of the preserve and the fauna that live there. Stillhouse Hollow presents a snapshot of the challenges that endangered species face in suburban habitat. The preserve is located at 7810 Sterling Drive, just off Burney Drive.

8:00 hike: This hike will involve some off trail portions including steep terrain. It will be a moderate to rugged hike. Suitable for ages 14 and up.

9:00 scavenger hunt: A self-guided scavenger hunt will take parents and kids along the trails at Stillhouse Hollow to find some of the treasures inside this park. This excursion will stay on the paths and involve easy walking, and the kids can explore the park as much as they want!

9:30 hike: Enjoy an easy stroll with minor elevation gain. This hike is suitable for ages 10 and up. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Be Aware: Participants are encouraged to wear closed-toe hiking-appropriate shoes for protection. Participants may wish to bring binoculars. Sun protection such as sunscreen and hats are strongly recommended. Participants must bring drinking water. No drinking water will be provided. Smoking, pets, and collecting of plant materials are not permitted.

Spaces for the hikes are limited so register through the link below to save your spot:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-trails-day-at-stillhouse-hollow-tickets-11776651281>

SUMMER DINNER AND MOVIE POOL PARTY – JUNE 14

- Shannon Meroney



Summer is here and the NWACA summer movie pool parties are back! Join your neighbors at Murchison Pool on Hart Lane off Far West Boulevard on Saturday, June 14 at 6:30 for a family friendly Picnic and Pool Party. We will have complimentary lemonade, Mangia pizza, popcorn, and snowcones with a poolside viewing of the family classic “E.T.” at dusk. Bring a blanket, pillows, and PJs for the show which starts at dusk. Coolers are welcome – no glass or styrofoam. The event, sponsored by Carol Dochen Realtors, Gottesman Krumholz Siegel Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Austin Emergency Center, PostNet, and Smarter Homes of Austin, draws hundreds of neighbors and is the kind of old school fun that makes the neighborhood a special community. Interested sponsors and volunteers should contact NWACA Events Committee Co-Chair, Shannon Meroney at smeroney333@gmail.com. See you there! (Check our web site www.nwaca.org for the latest information.)

JULY 4TH PARADE – IT’S COMING SOON! CAN YOU LEND A HAND?

- Shannon Meroney

NWACA's Parade Committee is hard at work preparing the 42nd Annual July 4th Parade - summer is right around the corner! This year's event will be bigger and better than ever, and we need your help. Please consider volunteering for one of our fun-loving committees to help ensure NWACA's parade is the biggest and best in Austin (again). Visit our website for more detail at www.nwaca.org

As always, the parade will start at 9:00 a.m. at the corner of Far West and Waterline. All neighbors, groups and clubs are encouraged to participate, decorate, and join the fun in any way they are comfortable. We welcome all forms of patriotism including wagons, strollers, bikes, scooters, and pets donned in their red, white and blue best. This year's parade promises to make it worth your time to get serious about your "float" with an official float contest, complete with blue ribbons and prize money in multiple categories. A small entry fee will be required to participate in the contest, so make your plans now and gather your group to design your winning entry. Details will be posted at www.nwaca.org or contact Heather Gephart, Float Contest Committee Chair, at lyons_heather@hotmail.com for more details and to arrange for entry.

Make plans to attend this year's Parade Post Party, too! Bring your friends and neighbors to join us on the shaded blacktop at Doss. We will have an inflatable water slide, free snow cones, ice cream, cold watermelon, donuts, breakfast tacos, face painting, tattoos, carnival games, prizes, candy, ponies, a clown and a magician. What more can you ask for? Volunteers of all ages are needed for 2 shifts 8-10:00 am or 9:30-11:30 am (and community service hours available!). Contact Meredith Sepehri, Volunteer Committee Chair, at dreesep@aol.com to sign up and get more details.



NWACA's parade t-shirts have gone viral!! Buy and wear yours now to get in the patriotic spirit by parade day. This year's shirts will feature the infamous Lawn Chair Brigade Ladies and be available for sale at the Murchison Pool Party on June 14 and on Tuesday nights in June 5-7:00 pm at various NWACA sponsor businesses as well as at Doss the day before the parade. Shirts will be first come, first served this year, so get yours early! Watch our website at www.nwaca.org or email nwacainfo@gmail.com for more details.

Want to help? We would love to have you - there are a lot of parade helpers needed! Contact Parade Chair, Shannon Meroney at smeroney333@gmail.com or 512-731-6615 to find out how you can pitch in on this amazing tradition we all know and love. Watch our website for updates, safety guidelines, and other more details at www.nwaca.org

A NEW BEGINNING FOR MURCHISON POOL

- Caroline Alexander



On May 17, we gathered 15 volunteers at our first workday to spruce up Murchison Pool. We mulched all of the trees, picked up trash that had accumulated there, and cleaned up the pool to get it ready for the summer. This is the first step in rejuvenating the pool.

Next, we will begin to work on making the pool a more inviting place. This will require shade structures, picnic tables, and benches at minimum. An intentional landscape design will hopefully transform the pool into more of a community gathering place (not just for fire ants!).

This will no doubt take a few years to complete. In the meantime, we are taking some small steps to get there. We have three new picnic tables on order that will provide some much needed seating around the pool. We are also working with a landscape designer to come up with a design concept.

To get this project done, we need your help! We will be writing grant proposals, raising funds, planning events, and coordinating volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved, please join the Friends of Murchison Pool group at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/murchison-pool-atx>.

NWACA ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

- Joyce Statz

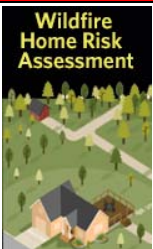


Thanks, everyone, who came to the May 21 NWACA Annual Meeting. There was an excellent turnout; we hope to see even more neighbors next year!

Vince Torres, AISD School Board President gave a very informative keynote.. He talked about the facilities plans (especially those at high schools that will be supporting the multiple student plans available now), the AISD tax rates (second lowest in the area and how raising them sends most of the money out of our area because of the Robin Hood arrangement), the master plan for the district, the superintendent search, and the AISD trustee elections in the fall. NWACA residents vote for AISD District 4 and for the at-large position. In the Q&A segment, he answered questions about the crowded schools in both of the verticals that serve our neighborhood, gave more details about the tax rates, and talked about his interest in getting changes made to the redistribution of our tax monies around the State.

Mr. Torres was followed by talks on areas of specific focus for NWACA this year – 10-1 City Council Elections, Neighborhood Watch for Crime Prevention, Parks and Trails Development, and Wildfire Prevention. If you were unable to attend, you can find the handouts and presentations on the NWACA web site, www.nwaca.org Go to the NWACA Library-Current link at the left of the home page, and read the files labeled 2014 Annual Meeting. (Sorry, but Mr. Torres didn't speak from slides, so we don't have his presentation.)

IS YOUR HOME FIRE-HARDENED? SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT



The NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee can help you minimize the risk to your home from wildfire. Certified assessors are ready to do a free assessment of your home with you, so you know how to harden your home.

To arrange an assessment or to get more information about preventing wildfire, go to www.nwaca.org and click on the Firewise Request link at the left side of the home page. If you do not have internet access, please mail us at: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

HELIPAD PERMIT UNDER DISCUSSION

- Zoning Committee

The owner of an approximately 40-acre residential property located at 5501 Paradox Cove submitted a conditional use permit application for a helipad on January 16, 2014. The site is located on the east side of Bull Creek as it enters Lake Austin. (As you drive west on 2222, you will see the entrance into the site from 2222, just before you get to the County Line Restaurant. Many people know the location as the Design Center.)

The property is currently used as a single-family residence with guest houses and a small recreation center for family use. The site is zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD) with Lake Austin Single Family Residential as the base zoning. The PUD Agreement for the site does not include helipad as a permitted use nor does the PUD site plan show a helipad.

Helipads are conditional uses in all commercial, industrial, and special purpose base districts and not permitted at all in residential base districts, except for hospitals in residential districts.

On April 29th the NWACA Zoning Committee met with the owner's representatives regarding the conditional use permit. The owner's representatives stated that the owner had a business in California and was building another home there and so needed to use a helicopter to get to the airport. The helicopter would be based at the airport and flights would be limited to 14 operations (seven back and forth trips) a week, on a use it or lose it basis (no "banking" of trips). Flights would be limited to between 7:30 am and 8:30 pm. Noise would be limited to 65 Ldn. (Ldn is the average sound level, in decibels (dB), for a 24 hour period. Non-averaged helicopter noise is, of course, considerably louder than 65 dB.)

The owner's representative showed a map depicting the proposed approach and departure paths of the helicopter. The paths generally follow Lake Austin. However, that cannot be guaranteed depending on wind conditions. The owner's representative addressed the zoning issue by stating that the PUD zoning did not prohibit the proposed helipad use because PUD is a special district and helipads are conditional uses in special districts.

The site plan application expires on August 16, 2014, however the applicant can get a six month extension. The applicant just submitted his sound study which will be reviewed by the NWACA Zoning Committee. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to us at _nwacainfo@gmail.com

COYOTE DENNING SEASON IS UPON US

- Texas Wildlife Services

Texas Wildlife Services is reminding the Austin community that this is the time of year when Coyotes are more on the move in our area. In general, that's because some of them have had pups or are about to have pups, and they are on the prowl for food and water. Their aggression level goes up especially toward dogs, because they're protecting their pups. We've had numerous reports from NWACA neighbors about sightings of coyotes on the streets and in yards, as well as of seeing coyotes attacking other wild animals. If you see a coyote, call 3-1-1 to report its location; Texas Wildlife Services will be alerted.

"SCOOP THE POOP" SIGNS AVAILABLE AT JULY 4 POST-PARADE EVENT



Some of our neighbors have expressed an interest in yard signs that remind dog-walkers to pick up after their dogs. The City of Austin has provided us small free yard signs that can be used to remind our friends to 'scoop the poop' as they walk their dogs.

We have a batch of those signs for distribution to anyone who'd like one. There will be a supply of them at the NWACA table at the July 4 Post-Parade Party at Doss, in case you didn't get one at the Annual Meeting.

CALL IT IN! REPORT INCIDENTS TO 311 OR 911

- Cuatro Groos, Crime and Safety Chair

Establishing Neighborhood Watches throughout the NWACA area helps our entire community by putting more “eyes and ears” on our blocks and streets. However, that helps only if neighbors know what to look for and take action when they see something suspicious. We strongly encourage neighbors to trust their instincts - when in doubt, CALL IT IN!

Watch for

- Suspicious persons or activities
- Vehicles passing by numerous times, suspiciously parked, or appearing to be aimlessly cruising
- Strangers in the neighborhood, especially if they are loitering with cell phones and/or backpacks
- Teenagers who are hanging out in the neighborhood while school is in session
- People with flyers or handouts. They may be casing the neighborhood, looking for easy targets
- The person “taking a short-cut” through a yard
- Strange vehicles parked at your neighbor’s house

If you see something suspicious, don’t assume someone else has called the police. It is your neighborhood – if you see something you feel is suspicious take action and do something about it. Note the description of the suspicious person and/or vehicle and call the City immediately at 3-1-1.

If you see an actual crime in progress, immediately phone the Emergency number 9-1-1 and report the incident to the police. Do not confront any suspicious persons yourself or attempt an arrest, as your safety could be jeopardized. Call the police!

NWACA’s Crime and Safety Committee shares reports of crime or suspicious activity with neighborhood watch programs in surrounding areas as well as with APD. The more descriptive information we get on file, the better the chances that a neighbor may see and report a crime in progress, and the better the chances that APD can arrest criminals in our neighborhoods.

Finally, summer is upon us, and many will go on vacation in coming months. Before you leave town, exchange work and vacation schedules with a neighbor you trust, so you can keep an eye on each other’s homes.

ONE MORE MONTH OF CAUTION ABOUT OAK WILT

- Tree and Environment Committee

You’ve surely seen NWACA’s Prevent Oak Wilt signs and newsletter notices for the last few months. The sap beetle that can transmit oak wilt is believed to become less active in the heat of Summer, but that doesn’t mean pruning oaks before December is risk-free. Take advantage of the Summer months to evaluate your trees and plan pruning, removal or replacement planting for the winter.

Watch out for their water needs, too, within the current watering restrictions.



REMINDER – FIREWORKS ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE CITY OF AUSTIN – Austin Fire Department

The sale and use of fireworks is banned entirely in Austin, as is the possession of fireworks within 5,000 feet outside the City limits. Violations can bring a fine of up to \$500. If fireworks cause bodily harm and/or property damage, the Austin Fire Department can charge residents with assault and arson, both felony crimes. The US Department of Transportation does not classify sparklers, smoke bombs, glow worms, snakes and poppers as common fireworks, and their use is allowed within the City.

NWACA wants to remind our members about a great local resource --- **the library!** Does the library remind you of school days researching projects using micro-fiche and the Dewey Decimal System and a card catalog on paper? Our local library is a modern resource that has many current popular books, DVD and Blu-Ray movies, and CDs. Our library allows users to check out electronic resources as well, including audio books or Kindle versions of books that can be read on a tablet, as well as a module that allows users to read electronic versions of certain magazines for FREE.

Do you have a library card? If not, please stop by and support the local library and sign up. If there is an item that you are interested in checking out, you don't even need to step foot into the library to look for it. The library has tools that allow users to search for items online and have them delivered to a local branch for pickup. This means that even if the item you want is not located at our local branch, it can be sent there for you to pick up at a later date. With the ability to select items from many branches, almost any item you are looking for can be available for you to enjoy.

Do you or your children devour books? Check out the library's online service called Overdrive; it allows users to read electronic books or hear audio books on a computer, tablet or smart phone. Overdrive can be accessed from anywhere in the world, so when you are on vacation and finish your book mid-trip, you can hop on Overdrive and order a new one in a matter of minutes. The Guide to Overdrive provides device-specific assistance, which is a helpful approach considering that Kindles, Apple, and Android devices all have slightly different requirements. The guide is here:

<http://help.overdrive.com/?Sup=http://austinlibrary.lib.overdrive.com/Support.htm>

Do you eye all the glossy magazine covers at the grocery checkout lane? Check out the library's online magazine service partnered with Zinio to read copies of a wide variety of popular magazines, including magazines for children. Steps for accessing Zinio through the Austin Public Library can be found here:

<http://library.austintexas.gov/database/zinio>

This Zinio User Guide is not specific to the Austin Public Library, but it provides a thorough overview and guide to the service: <http://www.keepandshare.com/doc/3975638/zinio-patron-user-guide?da=y>

The library also offers summer reading programs for adults and children. Stop by your local branch or look online for a summer reading form. Children who participate will receive a free book of their choice at the end of the program. Adults who complete summer reading forms will be entered in drawings for prizes. The library also offers many events such as concerts and seminars as part of the summer reading program. More information can be found at www.austinsummerreading.org

While we are all aware of the budget overruns around building the new downtown branch, let's not forget that the library is a resource provided for us all to enjoy and a benefit of our tax dollars. We have two branches nearby that you may want to explore.

- Old Quarry Branch - 7051 Village Center (behind the Post Office on Far West)
- North Village Branch - 2505 Steck Ave (near Burnet)

Here's the Austin Public Library web site: <http://austin.bibliocommons.com/>

DROUGHT-RESISTANT LANDSCAPE OF THE MONTH - 7111 Sungate Drive

- Joyce Statz

This series highlights a homeowner’s yard with successful drought-resistant landscaping. We welcome references from readers for examples they appreciate and would like to share with our readers.

Featuring Yard of: Idee Kwak
Address: 7111 Sungate Drive
Year started: 2006, developed gradually
Prominent Features: Handcrafted “rivers” in front and back yard to channel water through the property, a plethora of Texas native plants, and an evolving painted forest landscape in the back yard



Reasons for Choice: This yard catches water from the about four acres of the neighborhood where landscapes are much higher than this one. The ensuing flood from a strong rain now flows through the beautifully crafted rivers to a tank and pipes that eventually take the water to the City drainage system. The native plants throughout the landscape are the result of working with designer/author Scott Ogden, to lay out a pleasing arrangement that requires minimal water, is deer-resistant, and attracts butterflies and caterpillars.

Water Requirements: Zero to once per month during a drought, using a drip system



Lessons Learned: Plant natives, and if they don’t do well, don’t do that again! Mulching chokes natives; they prefer decomposed granite. Be sure that what is planted will take care of itself. Avoid St. Augustine and anything else that takes a lot of water.

Plant List: agave, coreopsis, damianita, germander, Jerusalem sage, lambs ear, lantana, mealy blue sage, Mexican oregano, pink skullcap, ponyfoot, purple sage, rock penstemon, rosemary, sago palm, society garlic, stool, various grasses, and more. In addition there are iris and other native bulbs for the South, with thousands more to join the 2000 already planted

SEE A GREAT DROUGHT-RESISTANT LANDSCAPE? TELL US!

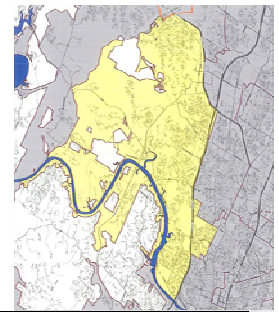
- Joyce Statz

For about a year, we’ve been featuring a neighbor’s landscape that gives us ideas about things we can plant that are drought-resistant and look great, too.

If you’d like to share your landscape with us, or you want to nominate one of a neighbor, please let us know. If you see an inspiring example as you drive through the neighborhood, tell us about that one, too, and we’ll contact the neighbor to get their story. With our persistent drought, we really need a lot of new ideas!

NOVEMBER CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS – OUR FIRST 10-1 ELECTION

If someone asks, do you know which City Council District is yours? Here's a map of District 10, which includes NWACA, plus these other neighborhoods: Courtyard, Great Hills, Highland Park, Jester, Rosedale (part), Tarrytown, and West Enfield.



Below is a list of relevant dates. NWACA will be doing a candidate forum in the fall, and we'll give you that date as soon as we have it.

Meanwhile watch for information about the candidates and ask them your toughest questions! Yard signs and bumper stickers are starting to appear.

May 8, 2014	Candidates may begin soliciting and accepting political contributions
July 21, 2014	Candidates may begin filing for places on the ballot
August 18, 2014	Last day a candidate may file for a place on the ballot
September 5, 2014	First day to apply (by mail or by fax) for an early ballot to be voted by mail
October 6, 2014	Voter-registration deadline to be eligible to vote in the 2014 City Council election
October 20, 2014	First day of early voting in person
October 24, 2014	Last day to apply (by mail or by fax) for an early ballot to be voted by mail
October 31, 2014	Last day of early voting in person
November 4, 2014	Election Day
December 1-16, 2014	If a runoff is necessary, it will be announced on November 18, 2014 and voting will take place December 1-16, 2014
January 6, 2015	New Councilmembers take office and determine which of them will serve 2-year terms, and which will serve 4-year terms, so that Council Member tenures are staggered going forward

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS

- Membership and Sponsorship Committee

NWACA would like to thank our members who have so generously contributed to the Oak Wilt Fund, the 4th of July Parade Fund, or the Murchison revitalization efforts, between April 27th, 2014 and May 29, 2014.

Donations to the Oak Wilt Fund provide financial assistance to property owners dealing with oak wilt. With this assistance, NWACA can reimburse forty percent of a pre-approved homeowner's expenses, up to a maximum \$1,000 reimbursement. NWACA policy requires that a property owner obtain an assessment of oak wilt infection, or risk of infection in healthy oaks, from an arborist with ASI oak wilt certification.

Donations to the 4th of July Parade Fund help NWACA to host the best 4th of July parade in Austin! This year we will be celebrating our 42nd Annual parade on July 4th 2014.

• Roslyn and Sean Breen	• Helen Dawson and Brooks Myers
• Ann Denkler and Jett Hanna	• Ken and Elinor Field
• J. Edward Jones	• Virginia and David Kendall
• Donna and Frank McCamant	• Marta and Charles Meyer
• Camille and Daren Nix	• Shannon and John Plum
• Bettie and Tom Polan	• Shirley and Tom Prud'homme
• Karen and Robert Rima	• Ellen Speers
• Jeffrey Tulis	• Valerie and Craig Tyler
• Junichiro Yatsu	

FIREWISE TIP OF THE MONTH – MINIMIZE VEGETATION FLAMMABILITY

- Al Simmons

Each month we feature helpful information about ways to make your home more fire-adapted, better able to prevent wildfire destruction. The full set of tips is archived on the www.nwaca.org web site.

An 8-page pamphlet from the Texas Forest Service reminds us that “Fire-resistant does not mean fire-proof. Homeowners should maintain a healthy landscape with proper cleaning, pruning and watering. Put the right plant in the right place.” “Firewise Landscaping in Texas” addresses these topics: the right plants for the right place, reasons to maintain a Firewise landscape, choosing landscape design elements, characteristics of fire-resistant plants, creating defensible space in landscape design, working with completing landscape goals, a checklist for Firewise plant characteristics, and checklist for landscaping your home. Included in its guidance are suggestions for the types of plants in the wildfire defensible zone around your home:



- acceptable in first 10 feet – low growing, moist plants such as columbine, primrose, violet, and phlox
- 10 to 30 feet from the house – taller plants like asters, bluebonnet, bluebells, and gayfeather
- Beyond 30 feet – shrubs like beautyberry, butterfly bush, lantana, and turks cap

Copies of the brochure are available from the NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee or online at this link: <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/uploadedFiles/NewsRoom/EDITED%202012firelandscape.pdf>

Texas Master Gardeners have created an 8-page Firewise Plant List for Texas, providing flammability ratings of Low, Medium, and High, as well as the plant’s Latin Name, Species Common Name, Secondary Common Name, and Plant form. This list covers a wide variety of plant forms including Aquatic, Grass, Groundcover, Shrub, Trees, Vines, and Wildflowers. The list is available on the NWACA web site, www.nwaca.org in the Firewise Resources page of the Wildfire Prevention Committee, or at this Texas Master Gardener link: <http://txmg.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/ellis/files/2012/03/Texas-Plant-Flammability-List.pdf>

NWACA FACEBOOK GROUP AND NOTES YAHOO GROUP – SHARING AT ITS BEST!

Are you on Facebook? Join our Facebook group and be part of neighborhood conversation on everything from local events to lost dogs, reporting suspicious criminal activity, and exchanging referrals on residential services (as well as feedback on negative experiences). Get to know your neighbors online!

Due to the group's huge popularity NWACA now also has its own community Facebook page dedicated to NWACA events! "Like" us to keep up with everything going on with our organization and important news that impacts our neighborhood. An easy way to stay in the know about the Northwest Austin.

If you’re already on Facebook, you can find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/299472207877/> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NWACA-Northwest-Austin-Civic-Association/563320463775985> or search for "NWACA - Northwest Austin Civic Association." If you’re not on Facebook, you can easily establish your own Facebook profile, then search for us and join us.

Our NWACA Notes Yahoo Group is another vehicle for trading messages, news, and trends. You can join by sending an email to: NWACANotes-subscribe@yahoogroups.com . The bigger the group the more valuable the info!

HOVER FLIES

- Wizzie Brown

Each month we feature helpful information from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program, provided by Program Specialist Wizzie Brown.

Hover flies, also known as syrphid flies or flower flies, are bee and wasp mimics. You can tell that they are flies because they only have two wings (bees and wasps have four wings). They can range in size from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ an inch long. Most are black with yellow markings and wings are held out to the side when at rest.

Hover flies are great fliers and are capable of hovering or even flying backward. Adults and larvae are considered beneficial; adults because they help to pollinate plants and larvae for feeding on aphids and other insects. Hoverflies cannot sting.



Hover flies have complete metamorphosis with 4 life stages- egg, larva, pupa and adult. Females lay whitish-grey oblong eggs singly near aphids. Larvae are legless and carrot shaped. The larvae may vary in color but most have a stripe running the length of the back. Pupae are pear shaped and typically found on the plant or soil surface. There can be up to 7 generations per year.



Adult flies feed on pollen and nectar and may also be attracted to honeydew which is caused by sucking insects such as aphids, mealybugs and scale insects. Adults are typically found around flowers. Larvae feed on aphids and other small, soft-bodied insects. Larvae move along the plant surface looking for prey. When they find something, they grasp it, suck it dry and discard the skin. Pupae are non-feeding.

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

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REMINDER ABOUT NOT FEEDING THE DEER

Some new neighbors may not be aware that feeding deer is prohibited in Austin. If you see someone feeding deer, let them know that it's bad for the deer, and it's a violation of a City ordinance. If the feeding persists, you can report it by calling 3-1-1. The Code Compliance Department will send someone to talk with the neighbor.

WHY JOIN NWACA?

The Northwest Austin Civic Association is your neighborhood association! NWACA represents YOU on issues like:

- Crime (how to prevent car and home break-ins, interacting with APD on issues)
- Transportation (raising awareness about excessive vehicle speeds and tracking new traffic lights).
- Zoning concerns
- Wildfire Prevention (helping homeowners harden their homes against wildfire)

NWACA plans the annual 4th of July Parade (42nd Annual in 2014!), organizes election and issues forums, sponsors an annual neighborhood garage sale, publishes a newsletter and much, much more! Membership is voluntary but **we need your input and financial support** to provide what our neighborhood needs. Please join us and also volunteer on a committee to help us create a neighborhood where we can all help each other.

NWACA Membership Form

Send annual dues of **\$25 (renewable each January)** with this form to: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

Homeowner Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____ Zip _____

Email #1 (kept private; print): _____

Email #2 (kept private; print): _____

Phone (with area code) _____

Annual Dues: \$25

(Optional) 4th of July Parade Contribution: \$10___ \$20___ Other ___

(Optional) Oak Wilt Fund Contribution: \$10___ \$20___ Other ___

(You can also pay via PayPal by following this link on our web site: [Join NWACA](#))

(If you've already paid your dues for this year, please pass this on to a neighbor who is not yet a member.)

Volunteers are always needed on our committees.

Please mark those you'd like to know more about, and a Committee Chair will contact you.

Thanks very much!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime and Safety/Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree and Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership and Sponsorship | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |