

Woodwind Lakes

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

Woodwind Lakes Annual Spring Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24
2:00 pm
The Pavilion
7523 Allegro Drive at
Adagio Avenue

**DON'T BE LATE BECAUSE
THE EGGS GO FAST!!!**

SAVE THE DATE!

Two upcoming events you don't want to miss!

**GARAGE
SALE**

Spring Garage Sales

**Woodwind Lakes, Rolling Fork
and Terrace Brook will be holding
Spring Garage Sales on
April 6th, 7am-2pm.**

Fun and games at Women's Club February luncheon

BINGO

plus camaraderie and food made for a fun time and lots of smiles.



Stop the Crape Murder!

Reprinted from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Hideous crimes are being committed all over Texas, some in our own front yards and many right in front of our local businesses. Unfortunately, many have turned a blind eye to the ongoing massacre. Not me! I can take it no more.

I am officially forming an advocacy group for plant's rights. They can't speak, so I'm going to speak for them. My first mission...to stop Crape Murder!

Lagerstroemia indica: The Crape myrtle. A native of China. The "Lilac of the South". The most popular flowering tree in the southern United States. Introduced to the U.S. by Frenchman Andre Michaux to South Carolina around 1786. Perhaps the most beautifully branching flowering tree in the world.



Crape myrtles are among the toughest, most adaptable, and showiest plants that we can grow in our Texas landscapes.

They have very few pests. They bloom all summer long. They require no supplemental irrigation. They have exfoliating bark that reveals spectacular smooth trunks. And they happen to have a branching structure that any floral designer would crave.

For some reason, a mysterious reason that I haven't quite solved, the majority of the "gardeners" (and *all* of the landscape crews) in Texas have made it a horrid ritual of butchering them.

Experts reject this "crime"

I know of *no* educated horticulturist or arborist that endorses the practice of topping crape myrtles or any ornamental trees for that matter. You will not find any plant expert that will condone or recommend this practice.

Then why do we do it? Actually I have several theories. But I'm not going to share any of them with you for fear that you might some how feel justified in your arboreal disfigurement.

I will tell you why not to, however. First of all it leaves horrible scars and

wounds that last forever. That's correct, *forever*. I can show you exactly where any crape myrtle on earth was topped. It's a "teenage tattoo" that can never be removed. It also makes a profusion of smaller branches resulting in a lack of proportion. All trees have a characteristic shape. It just so happens that crape myrtles have one of the most beautiful. Topping does create larger blooms, though fewer of them. Unfortunately these larger blooms on new shoots have a tendency to flop over and droop after summer rains (remember when it used to rain in the summer?). And finally it's down right ugly. We don't hack on dogwoods, redbuds, or Japanese maples. So why do we pick out the prettiest one of all to maim?

Some of the most beautiful homes in Texas are now marred by embarrassing crape myrtles. On the other hand, take a trip to Baton Rouge, Mobile, or Charleston. They have an enduring admiration for their beautiful crape myrtles and wouldn't think of undoing what nature has perfected.

The only pruning they require

The only pruning crape myrtles require is to thin out the trunks on young trees leaving somewhere around 3 to 7 permanent trunks. The fewer you have, the more you can admire their shape and smooth texture. Each year around early spring, all you do is remove any new suckers that appear from the ground or from your main trunks. That's it. Yes, if the tree is small you can remove the seedpods, but realize that this is purely for aesthetic reason. Removing dried pods during the winter doesn't promote any more bloom during the summer. Removing them during the summer does promote faster re-bloom however. This nonsense of pruning back to pencil size wood comes from recommendations from the 1960's and is outdated. People apparently had a lot more free time on their hands then. There's no telling how many thousands of dollars are wasted on incorrect pruning of crape myrtles. To be quite honest an unpruned crape myrtle is almost always superior in appearance to a "professionally" pruned one. Some things



in nature are hard to improve on.

I'm quite sure that the few of you left reading this soapbox diatribe can't wait to tell me what many have in the past. "But Greg, they got too big!" Much better to cut it to the ground and start over, or pull it out entirely, than to maim it. Most folks don't realize (but should) that there are many, many, cultivars of crape myrtles that have an ultimate height range from 3 feet to 30 feet. For heavens sakes, don't plant a 30 foot crape myrtle in a space designed for a 10 foot one.

Check with a reputable nursery. If a tree type is too large, there are many smaller types available, including mildew resistant ones. There are a number of improved semi-dwarf cultivars in the 6-8 foot range including Acoma (white), Hopi (pink), Tonto (fuchsia), and Velma's Royal Delight (purple) that make outstanding small trees. Trees that *never* need topping, that is.

There have been articles on this same subject in *Southern Living*, *Neil Sperry's Gardens*, and other southern magazines and newspapers. Unfortunately, the problem here seems to be getting exponentially worse each year. I can only assume that gardeners in Texas either don't read, or don't care. Please prove me wrong. **Stop the crape murder!**

Greg Grant is a horticulturist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, a contributing garden editor for Texas Gardener magazine, a founding and lifetime member of the Crape myrtle Society of America, and a lifetime member of The Southern Garden History Society.

CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
**WOODWIND LAKES
WOMEN'S CLUB**

Wednesday March 13, 2024 | 10:00AM to 1:00PM
Windfern Forest Utility District Building | 14410 Mauna Loa Lane

Light Brunch Served

Please RSVP to anntatum9203@gmail.com by March 8



Action is the foundation.
The key to all success.

Focus on being productive instead of being busy.

Leafcutting ants

Texas leafcutting ants, *Atta texana*, are fascinating ants native to Texas, Louisiana and parts of Mexico. Leafcutting ants create large, extensive colonies, often with multiple mounds clustered in a single area. Mounds are volcano or crater-shaped with a centralized opening and may be mistaken for fire ant mounds, but fire ant mounds do *not* have a centralized opening.

Usually, worker ants of this species, who forage for food, are the most commonly seen leafcutting ants but in spring it is possible to see reproductive ants or swarmers. Workers are relatively large ants, reddish-brown in color with three pairs of spines on the thorax and one pair of spines on the back of the head. Workers come in various sizes but can be up to ½ an inch long. Reproductives look similar to worker ants but are much larger in size, with female swarmers being over an inch long. Mated queens have a special area within their mouth to carry fungal spores used to create a fungus garden in the newly founded nest.

Fungal underground gardens

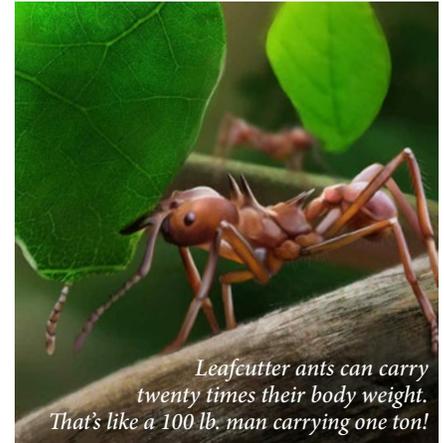
Leafcutting ants typically forage when temperatures are cooler, such as at night or in the morning. They can sometimes cause complete defoliation of plants or small trees overnight. These ants

remove leaves and buds from plants in the landscape, which they chew and get some nutrition from sap but mainly place chewed leaves in an underground garden within their colony and use it as a base to grow fungus that they eat. Leafcutting ants tend a particular species of fungus and weed out any other fungus from their garden.

Colonies may exist for years and can exceed over two million ants. It is not unusual for a single colony to cover an acre of land. Colonies are usually found in well drained, sandy or loamy soils and are more common in Central to East Texas than other parts of the state.

Leafcutting ants can be difficult to manage and almost impossible to eradicate completely

Unfortunately, leafcutting ants can be difficult to manage and almost impossible to eradicate completely. Prized plants can be temporarily protected by using spray adhesives around the base of the plant, but adhesives need to be refreshed often when dirt or debris accumulates. Temporary protection can also be provided to prized plants by utilizing contact insecticidal sprays or dusts labeled for “ants”. These insecticidal products can also be used along foraging trails and openings where the ants



Leafcutter ants can carry twenty times their body weight. That's like a 100 lb. man carrying one ton!

go into the ground. If mounds are present, Amdro Ant Block, which is the only product labeled for use against leafcutting ants, can be broadcast with a hand-held spreader in the mound area. You do not want to use ant bait and residual dusts and sprays in the same area as pesticidal dusts and sprays can contaminate bait and cause the ants not to pick it up.

When managing leafcutting ants, set expectations at managing, not eradicating. Often when you treat, you'll knock back a portion of the worker population but the colony will remain.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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It's nearby and you might want to check out

Jersey Village Farmers Market

The Jersey Village Farmers Market is held the first and third Sundays of every month, from 10:00am-2:00 pm. The market is located in the parking lot of the Jersey Village Civic Center, 16327 Lakeview Dr. This family-friendly event features locally grown food and handmade merchandise.



Interested in being a vendor?

They are currently accepting vendors. If you would like to be a vendor at the Farmers Market, please reach out to info@braeswoodfarmersmarket.com. Spots are limited! As a vendor you will be responsible for following all state, county and national regulations regarding the sale of your wares, including collection of sales tax. There are no special Jersey Village requirements. Please follow all Harris County requirements for food handling and food safety.



Market Update

The City of Jersey Village has partnered with Braeswood Farmers Market to operate their 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month morning market.



MONARCH LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Woodwind Lakes Monthly Services Update

**February completed events**

- Irrigation inspection (comp 2/28)
- Site audit
- Crape Myrtle Trimming (comp 2/1)
- Replace 1 missing valve box cover on lake 3 entry (comp 2/1) no charge
- Dog bag reorder (comp 2/23)

Upcoming events

- Irrigation inspection (TBS)
- Site audit
- Trees for Houston planting at lakes (tentative 3/23)
- Spring mulch installation (sch 3/18)
- Shrub and groundcover fert w/InD (TBS)
- Spring turf PreEm (TBS)

Details we are focusing on this month

- Finishing cul-de-sac seasonal cutbacks
- Remove fallen branches and sticks around lakes in natural areas
- Continue debris pick up on setbacks in phases



January Yard of the Month winners

SECTION 1



7919 SONATA COURT

SECTION 2



7907 SCHERZO LANE

SECTION 3



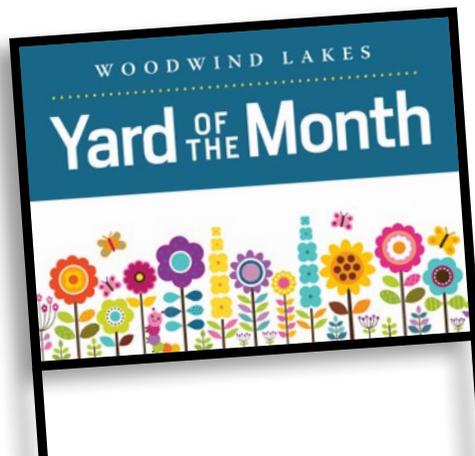
8703 GOLDEN CHORD CIRCLE

SECTION 4



9307 RHYTHM LANE

Congratulations!





HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

CONSTABLE MARK HERMAN

"Proudly Serving the Citizens of Precinct 4"

6831 Cypresswood Drive ★ Spring, Texas 77379 ★ (281) 376-3472 ★ www.ConstablePct4.com

Monthly Contract Stats

WOODWIND LAKES

For February 2024

Categories

Burglary Habitation: 0	Burglary Vehicle: 0	Theft Habitation: 0
Theft Vehicle: 0	Theft Other: 0	Robbery: 0
Assault: 0	Sexual Assault: 0	Criminal Mischief: 0
Disturbance Family: 1	Disturbance Juvenile: 0	Disturbance Other: 0
Alarms: 3	Suspicious Vehicles: 2	Suspicious Persons: 2
Runaways: 0	Phone Harrassment: 0	Other Calls: 21

Detailed Statistics By Deputy

Unit Number	Contract Calls	District Calls	Reports Taken	Felony Arrests	Misd Arrests	Tickets Issued	Recovered Property	Charges Filed	Mileage Driven	Days Worked
K12	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	60	1
W15	45	33	8	0	0	20	0	0	803	17
W20	3	11	1	0	0	3	0	2	185	4
TOTAL	48	46	9	0	0	26	0	2	1048	22

Summary of Events

OTHER CALLS:

8900 ANDANTE DR- A known male complainant stated that an unknown suspect(s) electronically transferred money from his bank account onto another bank account.

Alarms:

Deputies responded to 3 residential alarms that were all cleared as false or cancelled.

Suspicious Vehicles:

Deputies responded to a 2 suspicious vehicle calls that were all cleared as GOA or information.

Suspicious Persons:

Deputies responded to 2 suspicious person calls that were all cleared as GOA or information.

Deputies conducted multiple traffic stops and issued multiple citations within the contract reducing the possibility of accidents.

Deputies conducted multiple contract, neighborhood and business checks within the contract increasing visibility while performing regular patrol duties.

Deputies responded to 21 other calls within the contract including:

Motor Vehicle Accidents	Follow Up Investigations	Stranded Motorist
Animal Humane	Information Calls	Traffic Hazard
Child Custody Disputes	Meet The Officer	Unknown Medical Emergency
Domestic Preventions	Lost Found Property	Abandoned/Speeding Vehicles
D.W.I.	Sex Offender Verification	Welfare Checks