

Woodwind Lakes

NEWSLETTER

|

AUGUST 2025

Enjoy looking back at the 2025 July 4th family parade and event

{ With a big thank you to the Woodwind Lakes HOA Board and volunteers for making this annual event happen! }



More photos on the next pages courtesy of our guest photographer, Ethan Neville.



Was it hot? Of course — this is Houston.

But we had food, fun, friends, flags and refreshments!



Was there Food? Singing? Balloons?

Every year neighbors gather together for this festive time.



Was it fun? Of course — this is Woodwind Lakes!

We like to celebrate Independence Day in a big way.



*Thanks for all the
great photographs,
Ethan Neville!*

Worms of mass duplication

If I were to say “hammerhead”, what animal comes to mind? I’m sure most of you would say the hammerhead shark. While hammerhead sharks cruise the oceans with their iconic T-shaped heads, hammerhead flatworms ooze across driveways and freak out gardeners pulling weeds.

Where they came from

They are native to Southeast Asia and were first documented in the USA in the early 1900’s arriving on infested plants and soil. They can be found across the USA but they prefer warm, humid conditions and have been reported in Dallas, Austin, Houston and along the coast.

Hammerhead worms are an invasive species and prey on our beneficial earthworms and other invertebrates. Because earthworms are necessary for the health of our forests, crops, gardens and compost piles, hammerheads can negatively impact local ecosystems.

Even in the garden, nature has a bizarre sense of humor.

They are light brown or honey colored with one to five dorsal stripes and can grow up to a whopping 15 inches! They secrete a toxin to make themselves noxious to predators and to aid in digestion. The toxin can potentially cause



nausea and vomiting in pets if ingested and causes skin irritations in humans.

What to do (and not do!) if you find one of these worms.

Like something right out of a horror movie, if you were to cut a hammerhead in two, two new worms will form. Cut it in four pieces and you will get four new worms. That’s why it’s important to know how to properly dispose of them. First of all, if you find one, wear gloves. You can spray them with a combination of citrus oil and vinegar or just vinegar alone. After you spray them, place them in a Ziploc bag. You can also put the worm in a Ziploc bag and then add salt or vinegar. Then dispose of the sealed bag. Report your finding to the Texas

Invasive Species Institute (<https://tsusinvasives.org/>). This organization is focused on research, coordinating early detection and a rapid response to invasive species that currently impact or have the potential to impact our ecosystems.

So, beware the hammerhead worm. Just remember, if you see one, don’t panic and resist the urge to whack it. Seriously, it’ll just clone itself like it’s auditioning for a sci-fi reboot. Also, let it remind you even in the garden, nature has a bizarre sense of humor.

Cheryl Conley

Lake Creek Preserve Board of Directors



Yes, hammerhead worms have been found in Houston. These invasive flatworms have been reported throughout Texas, including the Houston area. They are known to prefer hot and humid climates, making Houston a perfectly suitable habitat for them.

What will a hammerhead worm do to a dog or cat?

They secrete a neurotoxin that isn’t particularly harmful to humans (might cause a rash) but are extremely toxic to pets and they will get very sick from eating or touching them. A veterinarian says it’s vital that you take your dog or cat to the vet immediately if you see them eat a hammerhead worm. If it happens within two hours they usually induce vomiting. They basically make the pet get this out of the system to protect the stomach.



THE WOMEN'S CLUB MEET & GREET SEASON KICK-OFF

Mark your calendar!

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:00am
9134 Brahms Lane – Home of Merrell Greene
Non-members are welcome to join in the festivities!
Come eat, drink and be merry!!!

For more information, please contact:

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*If you want to, you can find a million reasons to
hate life and be angry at the world.*

*Or, if you want to, you could find a million reasons
to love life and be happy.*

Choose wisely.

That annoying buzzing sound you hear all Summer? It's probably...

Cicadas

Texas has over 50 species of cicadas and these summer insects are usually beloved or hated because of their sound. Male cicadas have ridged sound producing organs, called tymbals, which they vibrate through muscle contraction creating the cicada's "song". Female and male cicadas can make noises through flicking their wings, stridulation by rasping part of the body with the wing or by vibrating the substrate where they are resting. Sounds are used for distress/alarm signals, establishing territory, calling to attract mates and courting calls. Male cicadas can synchronize their calls to form a chorus to attract females.

Cicadas typically sing during the day but there are some species that sing at night. The time they sing during the

day can depend on the species and environmental conditions – too hot/cold, sunny or cloudy (tend to sing less during cloudy periods) and lastly the number of other cicadas in the area that are singing. If there are more cicadas singing nearby, the cicadas tend to form a chorus.

Cicadas are small to very large insects, with widedset eyes, bristle like antennae and distinct membranous wings. They have an incomplete life cycle with three life stages: eggs, several nymphal instars and adults. Eggs are laid in slits that are cut into the bark on twigs and tree branches. Hatched nymphs drop to the ground and burrow into the soil. Nymphs excavate chambers near tree roots where they feed on xylem* from the roots.

The last nymphal instar emerges from the soil, climbs onto a nearby plant where it molts into the adult stage. Adult cicadas live for about two months.

Most cicadas have 1-to-5-year life cycles but the North American genus, *Magicicada*, has life cycles from 13 to 21 years. These are categorized into distinct "broods" that are numbered. It is thought that periodical cicadas evolved in response to predation but others hypothesize it was a way to survive cold weather.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at ebrown@ag.tamu.edu.

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*A compound tissue in vascular plants that helps provide support and that conducts water and nutrients upward from the roots



Now that's a face only
a mother could love!

August Yard of the Month Winners

SECTION 1



8014 ENSEMBLE DRIVE

SECTION 2



8838 ANDANTE DRIVE

SECTION 3



8719 GOLDEN CHORD CIRCLE

SECTION 4



7934 CLARION WAY

Congratulations!
And thanks for keeping our community looking its best!

