

Barton Hills News

BARTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Stopping the Spread of Disease Killing Texas Oak Trees

by Melissa Hawthorne

Oak trees are a common sight in many of our yards, providing much needed shade for and habitat for native wildlife. However, pruning the trees during the springtime can have unintended consequences that may leave our trees in danger.

Oak wilt is spread through tree wounds

Infected trees can die within weeks of infection

Millions of trees have died from oak wilt

Oak wilt is an often fatal, fungal disease that affects oak trees throughout Texas. It's a brutal disease that disables the water conducting system and is sometimes spread through roots graft together underground.

The disease can be spread any time of year but circumstances are perfect in the spring. Spring is the time of high fungal mat production, high insect populations and the highest susceptibility to disease for oaks.

There are ways to prevent the spread of the disease. The first is to avoid pruning during the spring. The least hazardous periods for pruning are during the coldest days of midwinter or extended periods of hot weather in mid- to late-summer.



NEXT MEETING

January 21, 2020
• 6 - 9 pm •

Please join us at

St. Mark's Church

(Corner of Barton Hills Dr. & Barton Skyway)

Dinner
\$10

**NEIGHBORHOOD
MEETING**
• 7 - 9 pm •



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bartonhills.org

Barton Hills News

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter is published quarterly and supported by sponsorships. It's distributed to homes in the Barton Hills neighborhood of Austin, Texas. For more about membership and neighborhood affairs, contact the appropriate person below.

2019 Executive Committee

President

Mark Gentle
president@bartonhills.org

Vice President

Stan Ostrum
vicepresident@bartonhills.org

Treasurer

Position Open

Secretary (Recording)

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Community Partnership Coordinator

Michelle Eades
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Corresponding Secretary

Melissa Hawthorne
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Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

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Committee Chairs

Committee on Area Development

Peter Hess
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Greenbelt Guardians

Glee Ingram
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Neighborhood Watch

Position Open

Emergency Preparedness

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Neighborhood Outreach

Position Open

Barton Hills Community Park

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Webmaster

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Newsletter Editor

Position Open

www.bartonhills.org

Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper.

President's Message *by Mark Gentle, BHNA President*

Greetings Neighbors:

In a speech during the 2018 election cycle, while urging young people to vote, former President Barack Obama said that indifference is the greatest threat to democracy. There is truth in that; however, there is also some truth to the major critique of that sentiment which is that so few of the political class are inspiring enough to motivate people to gather at the polls.

While the voting participation rates are disturbingly low, it seems to me that this is a symptom of a much deeper issue than just the exercise of the hard-fought right to vote.

While still recognized as a core American value, it is well documented that volunteerism is down across the country. Changing demographics, financial security, and changing lifestyles are some of the explanations offered by the experts to explain the decline. Others have suggested that the over-arching trend is away from associating with groups based on a fundamental distrust of "group-think."

As a non-profit organization dependent on volunteers, these trends are of real significance. Having fewer people doing more is not a long-term solution, either nationally or in the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association.

I believe it is time to take a hard look at how to restructure our Association to be more of a platform to create opportunities for people to volunteer to work on issues at their own pace, on issues they care deeply about rather than having the same old four meetings per year with few attendees and a complicated parade and newsletter that requires an infrastructure of volunteers that no longer exists.

The neighborhood needs to have a voice in important local issues, but our ability to project that voice can and I believe should be more broadly expressed by action and participation in a wide variety of interests. The days of neighborhoods having a key voice at City Council are largely behind us. Besides, actions speak louder than words.

Our neighborhood includes so many talented and engaged people; our Association should take advantage of this deep bank of social capital by relying more on our website to communicate information, use it as a platform to identify community engagement activities relevant to our neighborhood and to organize our Association accordingly.

The goal of this more open structure is to allow people to imagine and create their own role in that community of interest and redirect the energy of the Executive Committee toward identifying and organizing opportunities rather than a narrow set of structured, calendared events.

Volunteering for BHNA should be a broadly shared expression of caring and opportunity for meaningful engagement. I hope it will be an opportunity open to many more of our neighbors.

Mark Gentle, President

BHNA Email List *by Stan Ostrum*

One of the benefits of being a member of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, which lets BHNA members communicate with each other on topics of importance, is that we have been able to move the list to a new platform, Groups.io, which is much more stable and user-friendly than the old one. In the past and got frustrated and gave up, please give our new email list another try. You can find our website at www.bartonhills.org/about/email-list/ or at the online home page. Information on how to join the BHNA can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Stopping the Spread of Disease Killing Texas Oak Trees

con't. from front cover

Avoid pruning or wounding oaks between February and July!

Oak wilt can also be found in spores under the bark of an infected tree. When there is damage to a tree, sap eating beetles that may be carrying the disease bring the spores with them, infecting the new wounded oak.

But if an oak tree does get wounded and bark is removed, there is a simple step YOU can take to try and prevent the spread. Immediately paint all wounds on oaks to prevent contact with contaminated beetles. Wounds should be painted, regardless of the time of year they were made, with commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. This deters bugs that may be carrying the disease.

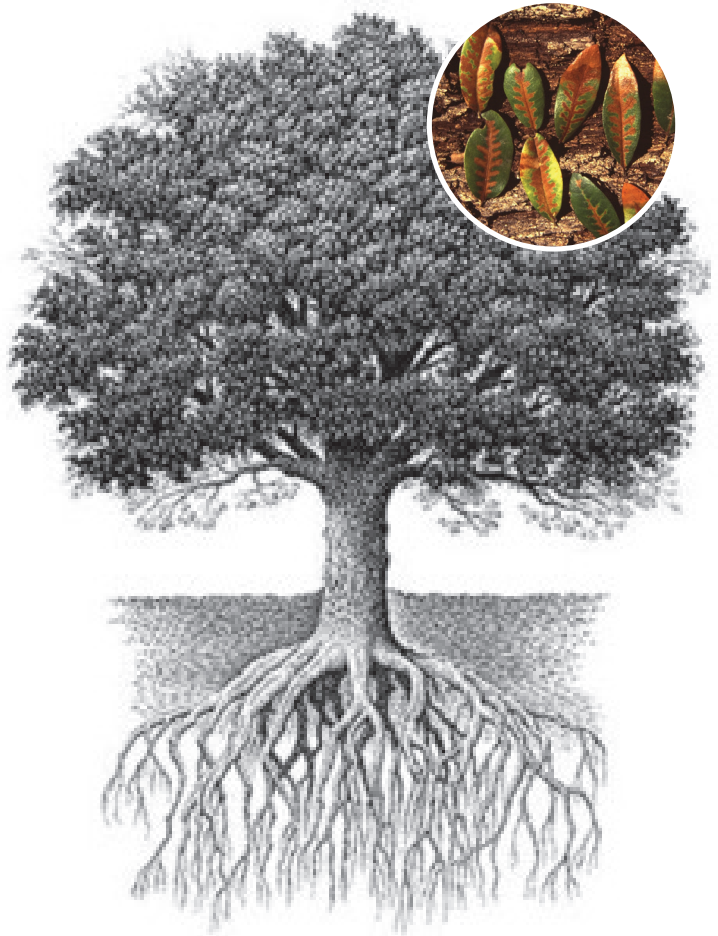
Sterilize/Sanitize all pruning equipment between trees using denatured methyl alcohol (shellac thinner), isopropyl alcohol, or a general purpose household disinfectant such as Lysol, Listerine, Pine-Sol or related products. Using household bleach is NOT recommended as it can be corrosive to pruning tools as well as people.

How to tell if your trees may be infected: Different types of oak trees show different symptoms. For live oaks, the telltale sign is veins on the leaves.

"In early spring, young leaves simply wilt, turning pale green and brown, usually remaining attached for a period of time. Mature leaves develop dark green water soaking symptoms or turn pale green or bronze, starting at the leaf margins and progressing inward."

If you think your trees are infected, it's important to contact a certified arborist right away because the timing for treatment can be tricky. It's important to communicate with neighbors to help stop the fungus from spreading.

Visit the Oak Wilt Partnership website at <http://texasoakwilt.org/>



BARTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Tuesday, January 21st • 6 - 9 pm

Join us at St. Mark's Church
(corner of Barton Skyway and Barton Hills Drive)

All are welcome! Social Hour 6 pm

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 | Call to Order |
| 7:05 | Brief Announcements |
| 7:10 | Approval of the Minutes |
| 7:12 | Treasurer's Report |
| 7:15 | Elections |
| 7:30 | Committee Reports |
| | - Area Development |
| | - Greenbelt Guardians |
| | - Barton Hills Park |
| 7:45 | AISS School Changes |
| | - Challenges, Insights and Next Steps |
| | - Programming, Teachers, Closures and Consolidations |
| | Speakers Amber Elenz (AISS District 5 Trustee) and Cindy Anderson (Trustee) |
| 8:30 | Other business brought to the floor by membership. |
| | Adjourn |

AGENDA

ciation is a subscription to our email list and group ser-
ortance and interest to the neighborhood. We recently
er-friendly than Yahoo Groups. If you had problems in
try. Information on how to subscribe can be found on
for our new group at www.groups.io/g/bartonhills.
vsletter. Thank you for your support!

Congratulations to

Best Wishes to our Barton Hills Ea

Forty-one former BHE students gathered at the Barton Hi



Top Row: Mary Jewell, Kayla, Camille, Frida, Quinn, Emily, Brecklyn, Maya, Eleanor, Jackson, Elin, Ben
Wolfgang, Gabriel, Trevi, Audrey, Will, Cade H, Emma, Cade C **Bottom Row:** Bailee, Solomon, Osb

the Class of 2020

gles! Can't Wait to See You Soar...

lls Community Park last Fall to celebrate their senior year.



n, Emmy, Lena, Leora Ayden **Middle Row:** Byron, Alex, Nathan, Owen, Sam, Jack, Mitchell S, Wyatt, baldo, DJ, Arthur, Tanner, Jay, Mitchell T., Ian

Greenbelt Guardians Update

by Stan Ostrum

The Greenbelt Guardians held two workdays last fall. On Saturday September 28th, National Public Lands Day, 21 volunteers contributed a total of 61 hours of labor at the Gus Fruh entrance. We worked mostly on the north side of the creek, rebuilding the rock steps leading up out of the creek bed and removing invasive plants along the main Barton Creek Greenbelt / Violet Crown trail. We also did some trimming and minor repairs along the switchback trail on the south side.

On Saturday November 2nd, the Austin Parks Foundation's fall "It's My Park Day", 41 volunteers contributed a total of 127 hours of labor at the Homedale entrance. We removed a lot of invasive ligustrum and nandina plants along the south side of the creek between the switchback trail and the Flats, and also repaired some rock work in the gully next to the bridge.

We'd planned to fund another round of invasives removal work by the Texas Conservation Corps this past

fall and winter, but ran into a bureaucratic roadblock with the city's Watershed Protection Dept. that we'll need to devote some resources to resolving before we can do any more of this important work using outside crews.

We're planning to hold our next volunteer workday at the end of February (probably Saturday Feb 29th), before the March through August ban on disturbing vegetation begins (endangered bird protection, the Barton Creek Greenbelt is part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve). We'll post the details on the BHNA and GG websites and send out notices on both email lists early in January.

To view photos of these and other workdays, sign up to get an email notice about our upcoming workdays, send us a message, or just find out more about what we do, please visit our website at **www.greenbeltguardians.org**. See you on the trail!



Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 1 Polar Bear Splash, Barton Springs Pool
- 10 - 12 Austin Home and Garden Show, Austin Convention Center
- 19 3M Half Marathon
- 20 MLK Day Celebration – Huston Tillotson
- 21 Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting – St. Mark's Church
- 25 Winter Tree Fest – Lady Bird Wildflower Center

FEBRUARY

- 1 - 2 Children's Book Fair, Lady Bird Wildflower Center
- 13 Science Under the Stars – UT, Austin Public Library
- 20 - 23 Austin Energy Regional Children's Science Festival – Palmer Event Center
- 22 Texas Heritage Songwriters Hall of Fame Awards – Paramount Theater
- 22 Carnival Brasileiro – Palmer Event Center
- 25 Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday

MARCH

- 2 Texas Independence Day
- 6 Cowboy Breakfast, Long Center
- 7 It's My Park Day – Greenbelt Guardians Workday
- 13 - 22 South By Southwest
- 14 - 28 Rodeo Austin
- 28 Kite Festival, Zilker Park

APRIL

- 1 - 5 Honk ATX, Various Parks and Venues
- 11 Jos Pet Parade, Jo's Coffee South Congress
- 10 - 12 Ballons Over Horseshoe Bay – Lake LBJ
- 16 - 19 Lonestar Hot Rod Roundup – Expo Center/South Congress
- 17 - 19 Austin Reggae Festival – Auditorium Shores
- 21 Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting – St. Mark's Church
- 25 Eeyore's Birthday Party



Volunteers at Homedale, November 2, 2019, It's My Park Day - Fall

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 41206
Austin, TX 78704

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Membership in the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association is open to all adult residents and property owners within our neighborhood boundaries. Annual dues are **\$10 per person**, payable when you join (for new memberships) or every January (for all renewals). You can pay your dues online through PayPal at www.bartonhills.org/about/membership/, by mail using the form below, or in person at any BHNA meeting. A \$1 PayPal service charge (per membership) will be added to online payments. A PayPal account is not required. Please make it easy and pay online if you can!

Once you're a BHNA member, you can join the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association email list and group to communicate with other members. Please see www.bartonhills.org/about/email-list/ for more information.

2020 BHNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Fill out this form to join or renew your membership by mail. Send it with your annual dues of **\$10 per person** to: **BHNA, P.O. Box 41206, Austin TX 78704**. Make checks payable to **BHNA**.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____

Register a 2nd member at the same address:

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____