



BALCONES WOODS NEWSLETTER

Balcones Woods Club, Inc. * 11204 Alhambra* Austin, TX 78759

MAR 2006

Web site: www.balconeswoods.org * E-mail: newsletter@balconeswoods.org

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Neighborhood Spring Garage Sale on April 15

Support Balcones Woods Blue Wave Swim Team

Information will be available during swim team sign up on April 2. After April 2, sign-up and information will be available on my front stoop.

Monica Ross

4014 Cordova Drive

Phone 418-1280 during evenings

The Oak Leaf Roller

I have been receiving numerous calls on oak leaf rollers lately. People want how to avoid the populations we have had the past two years. These caterpillars are greenish-yellow with a brown head capsule that dangle from oak trees. These caterpillars are more of a nuisance than a true pest. Most healthy trees can withstand defoliation without significant damage, but there is concern this year since the drought may also be causing stress to trees.

Some nurseries in the Austin area are suggesting release of Trichogramma wasps. Trichogramma are small, parasitic wasps that lay their eggs in a variety of insect eggs. The wasp egg hatches within the pest insect's egg and feeds within the pest egg, eventually causing death of the developing pest. While Trichogramma are great for managing a variety of pests, I have been unable to locate any information on the wasp controlling oak leaf rollers. Oak leaf roller eggs remain on the tree from May to the following March, so the egg has to be fairly tough, possibly decreasing the likelihood of them being controlled with Trichogramma.

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Quarries Update

The Hyde Park Baptist Church has updated information on the Christian Life Center facility on its website at www.hpbc.org/cms/index.php?section=139. A recent flyer mailed to church members announced the opening of the Center in April 2006 and hours of operation as:

Mon - Fri 5:30am - 11pm
Sat 8am - 8pm
Sun 1pm - 8pm

The facility will also have child care during specific hours and a Lakeside Grill serving light food during specific hours.

For ads, stories, announcements, please contact us at Newsletter@balconeswoods.org.



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Meal Circle

“Fire up those ovens and welcome a new baby to the neighborhood.” That was the recent e-mail call from the Balcones Woods Meal Circle. Our helping neighbors volunteer to supply meals to neighbors in need, especially families with new babies. To join Meal Circle’s e-mail list, please contact us at mealcircle@balconeswoods.org.

Whenever, the need for a meal arises, we will contact everyone asking for convenient times you would like to volunteer. Thanks for continuing to make Balcones Woods a really special place to live.

A Noble Cause

Leukemia is the #1 disease-killer of children under 15, and lymphoma is the leading disease-killer of men and women under 35. Every five minutes someone in the United States learns that they have a blood-related cancer such as leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma. Cassidy Santaguida, the coach of the Anderson Trojan swim team will rejoin Team In Training, a fundraiser for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She will complete the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in San Diego this June. Cassidy writes, "I know that running a marathon is one of the most difficult things a person can do, however I've been inspired by a young man who is facing a much more difficult challenge. Jordan is a recent graduate of Anderson High School, where I teach, and is currently fighting for his life. Last fall Jordan was diagnosed with lymphoma and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. During his treatments Jordan has served as a mentor for our high school swim team (that I coach) and has been an inspiration for the swimmers and myself.

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Police Appreciation Night

The Mesa Park Neighborhood Assn. announces our 12th Annual Police Appreciation Night on Tuesday, March 28th at Covenant Methodist Church, 4410 Duval Rd at 7:00pm. We would like to invite all of our neighbors to participate. We realize that there might not be an organized venue in order to show your appreciation for our 300 Northwest police personnel. MPNA heartily appreciates the fact that we all live in a city, that when we pick up the phone and ask for help....they come running! Our appreciation night is not a statement for/against any of the policies of the APD, this is not a political event. Just letting some hard working police personnel know that we are grateful they are on the job. The entire family is welcome, so bring your kids. If you would like to help out, please call Bob or Jessi Grissom at 345-4882 or email at rgrissom1@austin.rr.com.

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LET'S GO BLUE!



JOIN THE BLUE WAVE SWIM TEAM



**Registration Sunday, April 2
2-5 p.m. at the Pool**

First Swimmer \$85 / Additional Swimmers \$80

Returning Swimmers will receive registration packets in the mail the first week of March



Balcones Woods
Blue Wave

For more info, please contact
Nancy L'Amie
nklamie@yahoo.com
345-6314

Oak Leaf Rollers *continued from page 1*

Also, releasing beneficial insects is best done within an enclosed space and people may have a difficult time building an enclosure for a mature oak tree. Applying horticultural oil could smother the eggs, but since many of the oaks are mature, treatment would most likely need to be carried out by a professional. If this is true, it would probably be best to wait and see if there is an actual infestation of caterpillars before spending money to control the caterpillars. Once caterpillars emerge, control would need to change to use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* variety *kurstaki*, which targets only caterpillars (though it does not differentiate between pest caterpillars and those that people enjoy having, such as ones that become butterflies). When using Bt, good coverage is key as the caterpillars need to consume a lethal amount of the toxin. Other possible control methods would be active ingredients such as spinosad (spinosyns) or carbaryl.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

Noble Cause continued from page 2 The advancements in cancer treatments that have been made due to research funded by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society are going to play a huge part in saving Jordan's life. I am running for Jordan and all others whose lives have been affected by blood-related cancers."

Her goals include finishing the race in 4 ½ hours and more importantly, to raise a minimum of \$2000 by May 1, 2006. The money raised will be used to support cancer research and the patient services provided by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. To help achieve these goals, you can make donations, share your stories about blood cancers, and remind her to keep running! You can mail donations to the address below or donate on her training website, www.active.com/donate/tntctx/santaguida. Checks should be made payable to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She will also post training updates, photos, and her fundraising progress on the website, so visit often!

Cassidy Santaguida
3003 B Jadewood Court
Austin, TX 78748

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Crime Update

At the January BWC Annual Meeting attendees were invited to attend an upcoming Commander's Forum. These forums are hosted on a quarterly basis. Residents of our community are encouraged to meet those police officers (Commander and District Representatives) who patrol our neighborhoods.

On February 7, the NW Area Commander's Forum was held at the Town and Country Optimist fields. Our Area Commander, Bryan Manley, presented a brief overview of the city-wide statistics on crime. He went into depth on the crime stats for the NW. A short Q & A followed. In response to the recent break-ins in the Balcones Woods subdivision, Commander Manley provided a handout containing ten home burglary tips. www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/burglary.htm

The Travis County Sheriff's Office addressed concerns and questions from the unincorporated area of Anderson Mill. This area is scheduled to be incorporated into the Austin city limits in 2008.

I was impressed by the level of cooperation that occurs between the APD and Travis County Sheriff's Office. They do not hesitate to back each other up when there is a question as to which jurisdiction is requesting assistance.

Following the formal meeting, the District Representatives and Sheriff's officers remained to answer additional questions.

The Commander's Forum is well worth your time. The upcoming meetings are scheduled for 7:00pm on May 9, August 8, and November 14. Hope to see you there.

Richard Smith
Balcones Woods