

# Whitewater Springs Property Owners December 2012 Newsletter

As you may know already the December Property Owners Association Members voted to approve the improvements to Big Dam & Lake OPTION A with the following results:

**Option A** received approximately 90% of the vote.

**Option B** received approximately 5% of the vote (little more than 5).

**Option C** received approximately 5% of the vote (less than 5).

The new POA board will meet January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Bertram Library off HWY 29 at 7:00 PM to install all new members. We would like to encourage every Property owner to attend these monthly meetings so he/she can be informed on what is going on in the community. Please bring your questions to the meeting, in writing so you can get precise answers.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year here in the community has been very eventful. Some of the roads have been "recycled" grinding-in Portland cement and water to "cement stabilize" the base for a long lasting road. The road is then topped with a chip-and-seal surface or in the case of the very steep parts (like Balcones and Whitewater Dr) with a cold mix overlap that will stand up to the heavy truck traffic (think cement and garbage trucks). This overlay (and hot mix asphalt) are much more expensive and would almost double the cost of road reconstruction and that is why we can't afford it on all the roads at this time. The important thing is we are fixing the cause of the road failure we experience from the original developer thru the recycle process.

A new gate security system installed, a new landscaping company take over the common area mowing, upgrades to some of the community pool pumping systems, stone benches placed along the Cow Creek pathway, stones placed at the spillway crossing of Cow Creek for pedestrians to walk across the low level area of the creek to the dinosaur tracks, we also planted some new trees and plants along the front entrance as well as painted the front entrance fence white again. Not to mention that we purchased our own water system from LCRA! Many

additional 3-phase electrical boxes have been installed throughout the community by Montvale and up in Section 2. We also adopted 2 miles of frontage 1174 one mile East & West of the entrance from TXDOT for the Adopt-A-Highway program! Whew we were busy little bees this year....

We also had many community get-together's where we all enjoyed the company of our neighbors and found the fellowship warming. Over the past year many activities were organized by the social committee and proved to be a big hit with all that attended. We look forward to seeing more of our homeowners at all the events in 2013!

### **OAK WILT ISSUES**

Because this is one of the times of the year that oak wilt can be spread, we would like to once again focus on oak wilt and how to prevent it from coming into our neighborhood. Here are some common sense recommendations from a lot owner who has lived in this area for many years: Don't buy firewood from the side of the road. It could very well have been recently harvested from dead trees killed by oak wilt nearby in Bertram, Burnet, or other areas known to have oak wilt. Please buy wood that has been dried and seasoned for one full year from a reputable dealer or property owner. Do not bring possibly infected wood into our community. This is one of the most common ways that oak wilt is spread. Never prune susceptible oaks (Live, Spanish, or Texas Red, and Shumard oak) between February 1 through the end of June. This is when the beetle that causes the disease is most active. Always apply pruning paint or latex paint to oak tree wounds that you see any time of the year as soon as possible. If you do need to prune oaks, do so in the coldest days of mid-winter or the extended hot periods in mid-to-late summer. Any time you prune the types of oak that get oak wilt disease, you must sterilize your saw with Lysol and/or bleach. A local arborist and tree expert recommends spraying your saw with Lysol before trimming, and applying the appropriate paint after every two pruning cuts. Then, clean your saw when you are done with a mixture of bleach plus dish detergent. (Lysol-cut-cut-paint-cut-cutpaint-bleach+dish detergent) The beetle that causes oak wilt is highly attracted to the fresh cut oak scent, and will attack your oaks if you do not paint the wound immediately. Be sure any chipper you rent or borrow is properly sterilized with Lysol or bleach before you use it. Mulch from a chipper that is not

sterilized can spread oak wilt. If you hire a contractor to trim oaks, make sure they follow the guidelines. Also, we are actually required to follow these Texas Forest Service guidelines; it's not an option the best time to trim to prevent oak wilt is the coldest or hottest months.

As always, if your property is in or within 300 feet of the bird habitat, you are not allowed to start clearing of any vegetation between March 1st and August 1st. Any clearing must be consistent with practices recommended by the Texas Forest Service to prevent the spread of oak wilt.

### **TIME TO TRIM YOUR CEDARS**

We all have Cedars on our property, many homeowners and some lot owners have gone to great extents to either remove or trim the numbers down to a low number on their properties. Cedars or Junipers can help in soil erosion in rocky or steep hillside areas around here. They can also drain the soil of much needed rainfall every time it rains by capturing the rain in the foliage of the Cedar and not allowing it to fall back into the ground. There are differences on how to deal with Cedars that vary from just thinning them out to complete removal. Many of our homeowners have chosen to “Lollypop” up 4-6’ the Cedars and to limit the actual number that grow on the lots to a bare minimum.

If you have a lot of these on your lot and would like a professional removal service to assist in the removal of these you may find that this is not as costly as one might think. One resident here had over 40 Cedars & Stumps removed for around \$400.00 and the crew did it in 4 hours! Of course you can fire up the chain saw and do-it-yourself given the time and energy! If you do decide to have a go at it remember this, “Cut the base of the cedar” BELOW the LAST branch to ensure it will not grow again. When you plan to do this make sure that our burn site is OPEN for the roughage you are going to create.

### **HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE POVERTY BUSH- FALSE WILLOW- ROOSEVELT WEED- BACCHARIS ON YOUR LOT?**

One of the most invasive forms of plants here is the "Poverty Bush and the other common names we have for it" This light green wispy fern like willow is a fast growing water sucking plant that is hard to get rid of! The locals here tell us the only way to get rid of these is to cut them down to the base and then spray them with a powerful plant spray like 50-50 ROUNDUP and maybe even mix in a little diesel fuel with it in areas where you know it will not affect your area (We all don't want to see everyone spraying with fuel, so use it in moderate please if you do) One homeowner says "There are two ways to get rid of them...Spray the green plants with 3% Round-up which inevitably results in a large "dead" zone around the plant or cut the plant to the ground and either spray or, more effective, paint the fresh-cut trunks with a 50% solution of Round-up....This way we minimizing the kill zone as well-as potential run-off problems. I like to add color tint to the "paint" so I can see where it has been applied....It seems to work on mesquite stumps as well."

### **IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT WITH US?**

Do We Have Your Current Email Address? Or Telephone number? Is your Emergency contact updated? Have you moved and need to update your mailing address?

It's very important that we have everyone's email address, phone and mailing address. Most of our communication is by email, and you may not be included if we don't have your current contact info. We often need to contact property owners or follow up on your questions and would prefer not to call long distance or use your POA money for postage. To protect your security, whenever we send emails to property owners, we are careful to send them to "undisclosed recipients"

Please use the "Submit a Question" section of the website to send your current contact information.

### **HELPING OUT**

We are always looking for volunteers from the community for various projects! If you have some spare time or an expertise that you think the community could use and would like to pitch in please contact us and we will be happy to get you busy helping out.

### **BEEN THERE DID THAT**

Remember, there are many families here in the community who have probably done what you may need or want to do to your home or lot and would be happy to share with you those experiences. So tap us, we are here to help you with improving your property here. Many of the community members are in programs like the Highland Lakes Master Naturalist, Master Gardeners and other service orientated programs and a wealth of knowledge that they would be more than willing to share with you if you just ask.

### **WEB SITE INFORMATION**

Updates to our monthly POA minutes, building documents and other WWS information can always be found online at our POA web site: [www.wwsboa.com](http://www.wwsboa.com) under the OWNERS section. It is password protected and if you have forgotten the access please contact us and we will get you that information.

**We wish y'all a very Merry Christmas and a  
wonderful & Happy New Year**

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