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> Windsor Park **Contact Info**

Vol XXXIV No. 9

September 2015

Windsor Park

Neighborhood

Association

Meeting

Saturday, Sep 12

at 10 a.m.

Website: www.Windsorpark.info

Email: president@ windsorpark.info

Newsgroup: groups.yahoo.com/ group/windsorpark/



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Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Email them to: newsletter@ windsorpark.info

## SEPTEMBER LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

It's September and I hope you are all enjoying the final 'official' month of summer (not that the temperatures won't likely continue through October. This is Austin, after all). Schools have just started, so please take extra care as you navigate our neighborhood and keep an eye out for students.

I have some great news to share with you: Pastor Lee Lever of the Austin Mennonite Church reached out to me a few weeks ago and proposed having a fundraiser for the WPNA's Reagan Scholarship Fund. We have accepted the invitation. The Austin Mennonite Church will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at the church on Saturday, September 26, 8am to 11am. The Austin Mennonite Church is located at 5801 Westminster. The WPNA is grateful for the generosity of the Austin Mennonite Church and Pastor Lever for reaching out to us with this wonderful offer to help us raise funds for the scholarship fund. Please do consider attending the Breakfast, as it will undoubtedly be a delicious and fun way to support our Reagan students!

www.windsorpark.info/

On a sadder note, Ashley Holmes, who has served as our ANC Representative, has decided to step down, and John Nordstrom, our Safety Committee chair has also resigned on account of events that transpired at the last general meeting. I want to thank Ashley for her contributions in the ANC Rep role representing Windsor Park to this larger body of neighborhoods and representing our views in resolution votes. My thanks to John for stepping up to the Safety Chair role. We will be seeking nominations for a new ANC rep. and for a new Safety Chair - I hope each of you will consider serving in one of these important roles.

In closing and on an utterly unrelated note, you should all try out these biscuits (recipe below). Ashley Holmes, our former ANC representative, assures me that they are fantastic and (nearly) fool proof. Of course, given my paltry baking skills I figured I'd have y'all confirm that first.

### **Ouick-Best Biscuits**

cold butter; <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> c. cold milk.

Put first 5 ingredients into bowl. Stir thoroughly. Cut in butter until crumbly. Pour in milk and stir quickly to combine. Add more mil if needed. Turn out onto lightly floured surface and knead gently 8 to 10 times. Roll or pat <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch thick. Cut with small round cutter. Place on greased baking sheet. Bake 450 degrees 12-15 minutes. Brush with milk before baking for brown top. (credit where it's due: http://www.cooks.com/recipe/ex3uv4i5/quick-best-biscuits.html)

Enjoy and let me know how they come out! Best, Karen Pagani, WPNA President

Or dues may be paid by Paypal through the WPNA website!

WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761

## Windsor Park Library **Updates and Events**

Celebrating 15 years serving Windsor park!

Sept 5, 2pm : Saturday Movie Matinee: Bolt Sept 8, 3:30pm: Lego Lab Sept 8, 7pm:Book Club: Leaves of Grass by Oct 3, 2pm: Saturday Movie Matinee: Hotel Oct 13, 3:30pm: Lego Lab Oct 13, 7pm: Book Club: Norwegian Wood by

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 9pm Saturday: 10am - 5pm Closed Sundays

5833 Westminster Dr. • 512-974-9840 http://library.austintexas.gov/windsor-park-branch

## **Reminder:**

**The WPNA Budget** 

will be voted on in the

September Meeting

Numbers count! A strong neighborhood association advocates more effectively

**Austin Police District Representatives** 

East of Berkman **Officer James Scoggins** (512) 974-8393 | james.scoggins@austintexas.gov

West of Berkman **Officer James Hyatt** (512) 974-5500 | james.hyatt@austintexas.gov

# WINDOW on WINDSOR

Published Monthly by the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association • Austin, Texas

If you can't make the fundraiser, but still want to contribute, you can donate on our website: http://

Ingredients: 2 c. flour; 2 tbsp. sugar; 1 tsp. salt; 4 tsp. baking powder; 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar; 1/2 c.

### **September** - page 2

## September 2015 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The September winners are Thomas Kleeman and his wife, Kate McAlister, of 1406 Larkwood Drive. They have lived in Windsor Park for 21 years.

When we asked about their inspiration for their yard, Mr. Kleeman replied, "From my water bill." The work, including replacing their St. Augustine, with xeric plants took about six months. They did all the work themselves.

They have miniature Lantana, Bamboo Muhly, Rosemary, Blackfoot Daisies, Pumbago, Bunny Foot Cactus, Iceberg Roses, Bird of Paradise, Mexican Feather Grass, Agaves, and Yuccas. They have an Esperanza with orange, rather that yellow, flowers. For that reason Mr. Kleeman emphasized that it was not to be called "yellow bells."

Their trees include a Japanese Pine Tree, a Texas Ash, and a Live Oak that is at least as old as the house. They enjoy watching the Wheeler Yucca and other plants "respond to the breeze." In one corner of the yard there is a pile of rocks that looks a little like a horned lizard, or more familiarly, a horny toad.

This yard inspired the Murphys, our June winners, to rework their yard. Mr. Kleeman's advice to those who want to improve their yards: "Go for it! Also stock up on the Ibuprofen."

The Kleemans will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery, 2710 Hancock Drive.

Do you like a certain yard, or yards, in the neighborhood? You can nominate more than one. Tell us. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood every month. We may not have seen your great yard. Don't be humble. We love to get nominations. To nominate a yard or yards, e-mail us at yom@windsorpark.info, call 928-0681 or write WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761



# WINDSOR PARKAGENT.COM

MLS



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### September 2015 Mueller Update Rick Krivoniak

Rains earlier in the year slowed construction progress on several Mueller projects, but you've likely seen a lot of earth-moving equipment activity recently preparing for the expansion of infrastructure for Mueller's Town Center. It is anticipated that Aldrich Street will connect to E. 51st Street about midway between Mueller Boulevard and Berkman Drive (which will both be at full-width buildout) early next year. Construction will soon begin on the Alamo Drafthouse Theater, and the workforce housing apartment complex just east of the AISD PAC. Mueller's second neighborhood pool at John Gaines Park is now expected to open in the spring of 2016, but the community gardens in the park will be open for plantings this October. About half of the garden plots are raised for accessibility.

Nearer the Manor Road side and a bit east of the Berkman, 275 homes are in various stages of construction, and fifty-eight of those homes are in the affordable program. The AMLI at Mueller complex next to the Thinkery is now leasing, where 15% of the apartments are reserved for families making 60% or less of Austin's median family income. The Mosaic & Elements apartment complexes both had 10% of their units in the affordable program. Along with Wildflower Terrace and the coming workforce housing project, Mueller is on track in initially offering 25% of its residential units, both for rent and for sale, as affordable. For sustaining affordability, the apartments have agreed to maintain their offering of affordable units for 50 years or longer, and the Mueller Foundation was established in part to maintain affordability in the for-sale units through a buy-back program.

The AISD Performing Arts Center recently joined a very exclusive club, becoming just the sixth commercial building in Austin to have earned the highest (five-star) rating from Austin Energy's Green Building program. It is the third in Mueller to do so, the others being Dell Children's Medical Center, which opened in 2007 (the first LEED Platinum hospital in the world), and its 2013 addition, the W.H. & Elaine McCarty South Tower. Austin Energy created the Green Building program in 1990, predating the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program by four years. The AISD PAC is seeking LEED Silver or better.

The first Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (RMMAPIAC) meeting held with appointees from Austin's 10/1 City Council structure was held in August. One seat on the commission is still open, and anyone interested should contact Council Member Zimmerman's office. Eight of the ten current members reside in Mueller, with the remaining two from Windsor Park. Michael Jones was elected as chair, and I was elected vice-chair. The next RMMAPIAC meeting is at 6PM, September 8, 2015, in the Carver Library Meeting Room 1, 1161 Angelina Street. Please send Mueller-related questions & comments to bc- Rick.Krivoniak@ austintexas.gov





### SCHOOL CROSSING AHEAD!

PLEASE BE AWARE OF STUDENTS ESPECIALLY AROUND THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

DRIVE LIKE YOUR KIDS LIVE HERE -- AND GO TO SCHOOL HERE!

### National Parks Lands Day – Volunteer Sept 26

Volunteer through Austin Parks Foundation on Saturday morning, September 26, National Public Lands Day. WPNA will have a project and we need about 25 volunteers. Sign up at austinparks.org to volunteer.

### National Night Out – October 6, 2015

National Night Out is a great way to gather with your neighbors and strengthen the connections that bind our community. Neighbors and groups within Windsor Park have been gathering for National Night Out for many years now.

This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, from 7 to 9 p.m. Neighborhoods must register by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2015.

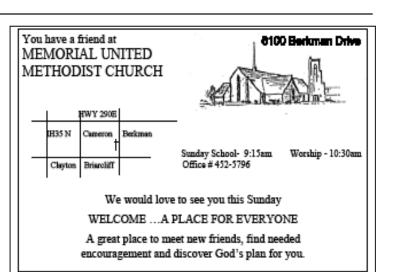
You can organize your own event on your block, or join in other events, like the one Messiah Lutheran is organizing (see below).

There is also a National Night Out Kick-Off Event and BBQ Cook-off which will take place at Mueller Airport Lake on Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church, 5701 Cameron Rd. invites neighbors of all ages to gather for National Night Out, Tuesday, Oct. 6th from 6 to 9 p.m. in the church parking area. There will be refreshments, fun and information. Get to know your neighbors on Cameron, Northridge, Reinli and Ridgehaven streets. Learn ways together to keep a safe and healthy community, to fight crime and illegal drug activity. You may get to meet representatives up close from Austin police, fire, emergency medical and code compliance departments who can drop by.

To register an event or find out more, visit http://www. nnoaustin.org/ or http://www.austintexas.gov/nno





# Windsor Park Resident and Real Estate Broker



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### September Update from Council Member Greg Casar

I hope many of you are having a great start to the new school year, and also that by the time you read this the summer heat isn't as overbearing. September is an important month for our City as City Council will approve the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget from Sept. 8 – Sept. 10.

### Budget

In this budget, my priorities are maintaining high-quality City services and ensuring everyone can share in Austin's prosperity. I was excited that the funding proposal I authored earlier this year for \$740,000 in tenant assistance was incorporated as a part of this proposed budget. There are several other initiatives I'll be looking at to improve our North Austin neighborhoods, including funding for the Windsor Park Library renovation plan and assisting our school district with funding for family resource centers, after school programs, and parent support specialists.

### **Reviewing District 4 Traffic Priorities for Upcoming Funding Opportunities**

Through Council resolution, additional funding was approved to support Transportation improvements across the 10 City Council Districts. My office is surveying the district to where that funding should be allocated, and I hope you'll provide insight on what you'd like to see improved in your area! Please send an email to John.Lawler@austintexas.gov to share which small Transportation projects matter most to you.

### **Additional Funding Approved for 51st Street**

In August, City Council also approved improvements to IH-35 and 51st street, which will provide better access to Cameron Road and reduce congestion on 51st Street. This money is being sent to Texas Department of Transportation to fund a ramp to be built to decongest traffic and connect the frontage road to East 53rd to Barbara Jordan Blvd. With the approval of these improvements, I look forward to seeing more traffic relief in this area.

### Gas Line Funding for Bartholomew Pool Approved

I have an exciting update: while I had previously anticipated that funding for the gas line for Bartholomew Pool would be approved in our upcoming budget process, additional funding for this project was found for this fiscal year, and the contract to begin construction with Texas Gas Services was approved this past month by Council. I will keep you updated on the timeline of this project. I'm looking forward to having Bartholomew Pool heated economically in the winter months for swimmers and training lifeguards in the near future!

### **Upcoming Office Hours and Stay in Touch!**

My next set of office hours will be on September 4 from 1pm to 3pm at the Windsor Park Library at 5833 Westminster Drive. Please contact my Communications Director Shelby Alexander at 512-978-2157 if you would like to set up a 20 minute appointment. As always, my office and I are available at 512-978-2104. If you need to reach me immediately please shoot me an email at Greg.Casar@austintexas.gov. I want to hear from you!

oe Hernandez,
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### **MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: WEST HANSEN**

### Martin Luecke

Our neighbor on Corona Street since 1990 is the world record holder for the longest river expedition in the history of history. Lewis and Clark, eat your heart out. He also has paddled the longest river in Europe, and has set many records in his years as a long distance kayak and canoe racer.

In 2012 West and his team paddled from the newly discovered headwaters of the Amazon River in the Andes mountains of Peru, 4,103 miles to the Atlantic Ocean. It took 111 days. Hansen raised over \$100,000 for the expedition, a third coming from a National Geographic Society Grant. All told there were 17 people in the support team at the beginning. The team would dwindle as the miles became more remote. The last 3000 miles were three guys and no support team.

They started the trip on the Rio Gashan at 14,800 feet, where it was snowing in August. The Gashan is only 15 yards wide, with class 3 to 5 rapids as it feeds into the Mantaro River, one of the five main rivers that make the Amazon. Every day they would start paddling at 4am, take an hour rest break during the day, and make camp an hour before sunset. The first 500 miles was whitewater, and West had two whitewater specialists kayaking with him. When the river became flat, they switched to flatwater kayaks and a new team of Austinites would complete



away screaming "Peeled Faces!" (Pela Cara!), which was their slang for white person. West said it was very disheartening because they wanted to make contact with locals, who were literally afraid of whites. "Those people had been exploited by white people for hundreds of years."

The first time they got held at gunpoint, it was the Ashkaninka tribe in Peru, who searched the boats for drugs. The team had decided to not carry firearms, and it turned out to be a good decision because on the river the team would suddenly be approached by small motor boats covered with men holding rifles. Twice they were stopped by the Rondero tribe, which is the private police force run by the narco trafficers who move a great deal of product on this 10 mile wide water highway. A group of thugs from Brazil wanted to steal their drugs, and a vigilante group was making sure they weren't drug runners or bandits!

They finished the trip at 3:10am, pitch black, fighting 30 foot waves off the Atlantic, where the river was 90 miles wide and there was no place to stop because it was all mangrove, and they were forced to paddle for 3 days straight. Their trusty GPS pointed the way, and they were never lost.

West says coming home is a culture shock, everything here moves so fast. "When you meet people in villages who have little food and drink bad water but are happy and have great attitudes, it makes you reconsider Cont. on page 5

# The WINDSOR PARK SPECIALIST



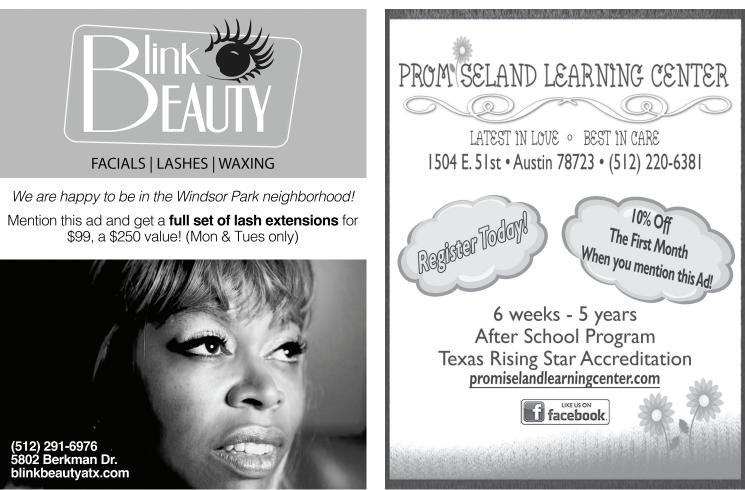
Every house in Windsor Park has a story. I have lived and invested in Windsor Park for nearly 8 years. I love being an active member of the neighborhood and that makes all the difference. Whether you are buying or selling I will help you with unparalleled experience that goes beyond the transaction.

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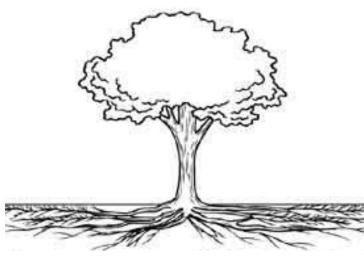
### **September** - page 8

### For The Trees

Tim Brosnan, ISA Certified Arborist and WP resident

### Why Trees Matter

Consider for a moment that Windsor Park is not only a neighborhood, but also an ecosystem. The built and natural environments coexist and serve as a home for human life as well as the lives of plants, animals, and insects. Our collection of individual properties, with their trees and plants, make up an urban forest that is incredibly valuable to the quality of life of all these diverse stakeholders.



Here are a few of the many reasons trees matter to the life and health of our Windsor Park ecosystem:

### 1. Trees house

A couple times a week I'll be climbing through a tree's canopy while pruning and realize I'm not alone. I've seen owls and squirrels in the hollows of large trees as well as countless eggs nestled delicately in nests. Trees provide shelter, food and building materials for both resident species and those passing through, like the hundreds of thousands of migrating purple martins that chose the live oaks around Capital Plaza to roost in this past July.

### 2. Trees cool

Trees that shade our homes reduce the load on air conditioners to cool inside air. The USDA Forest Service estimates that trees planted on the south and west sides of homes can reduce cooling costs by 30%. Street trees lessen the "urban heat island effect" by reducing pavement temperatures and cooling air beneath their canopies through the process of evapotranspiration.

### 3. Trees heal

Last month The New Yorker ran an article summariz-

ing a large study involving 94,000 Toronto residents. The study found that the number of trees on a given city block had a direct correlation with how healthy the residents reported feeling, the more trees the healthier.

### 4. Trees protect

Tree roots anchor the soil and create porosity that allows rainfall to soak into the ground and be utilized by the tree rather than running into our streets. In addition, their canopies slow rainfall and dissipate its force as it approaches the ground. All this helps reduce the intensity of flooding in heavy rains and protects against erosion.

Tim and his family have lived in Windsor Park since 2010. He owns and operates Brosnan Tree, a local tree care company. brosnantree.com



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### Fire ant treatments Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

There are numerous ways to manage fire ants, but they are often broken into two categories- broadcast treatments and individual mound treatments. Individual mound treatments are used to treat one mound at a time and can be labor intensive and may result in more pesticide being spread into the environment. Broadcast treatments will spread product (granular or bait) over a large area.



(what kills the pest) is dissolved. Worker ants collect bait as a food source and take it back to the colony to share with other ants, including the queen. Depending on the active ingredient, the bait may cause the queen to die or be unable to produce viable eggs, which gradually kills off the colony. When using baits, results are often slower to observe when compared to individual mound treatments, but can provide 80-90% suppression (continued on page 7)

more!"

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: WEST HANSEN, cont.

your world and your complaints. I don't sweat the petty things any-

Today there is a documentary film of their exploits making the film festival circuit under the title: Peeled Faces. It was a Windsor Park production with Steve Lewis on Corona doing graphics and photography, Ian Prikryl on Broadmoor doing directing and editing, and Darryl Mayers (also on Corona) and his band Mundi providing soundtrack. Next on the list: circumnavigate Cuba! 3500 miles of coastland. Why? To get there before Starbucks shows up.

Nominate an interesting neighbor by contacting Martin Luecke at 536.0465 or mwluecke@hotmail.com.



Individual mound treatments include pouring boiling water onto the mound, using insecticide mound drenches, spreading insecticide granules onto the mound and watering them in, sprinkling insecticidal dusts on top of the mound or using bait-formulated insecticides around the perimeter of the mound. There are also many "home remedies", but be advised that many of these do not kill fire ants. Many home remedies make the fire ants move to a new location (often 1-2 feet away), but do not kill the ants.

Bait-formulated insecticides most often consist of a defatted corn cob grit coated with soybean oil; the soybean oil is where the active ingredient

### **Blanton Elementary – September Update**

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

Over the summer, Blanton has been undergoing some large changes that involve construction and painting - the results are a beautiful new look to our same comfortable school. We are happy to welcome back Ms. Dora Molina who has accepted the position of interim principal for this school year...it's nice to see the return of a familiar, friendly face that many parents and staff remember from past years. Several new staff members will also be joining us this year. We are looking forward to a very busy school year with lots of activity and learning.

### **Highlights from August:**

- August 15 was our first beautification/gardening day of the school year.
- August 19 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. was a Community Walk where the teachers went to the homes of their students to welcome them back to school and deliver the school calendar.
- August 20 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. was our Meet & Greet for staff and parents.
- August 24 was the first day of school.

### For September:

The scheduled Back-to-School Night is September 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 p.m. This is a good time for staff, students, parents and community to get together and visit about Blanton and the upcoming school year.

The ACE program will begin on September 14<sup>th</sup> and the hours are from 2:5-5:45 p.m. This program will be downsizing some of its classes to accommodate the addition of a Pre-K class and a Kindergarten class as requested by many parents.

During the month of September, the ACE program will begin collecting t-shirts for the 'T-Shirts for Hunger Program' which will be an ongoing activity. The shirts are collected to make grocery bags to be used by the food bank when handing out food to the needy. Clean, gently used (no holes) t-shirts may be brought to the school and put in the t-shirt barrel and ACE will see they are delivered to Travis County. The best sizes are youth large, adult small and adult medium...they can be long-sleeve, short-sleeve or tank tops. We welcome our community to participate in this activity. \*\*\*Special Request: If any of the parents or community have old magazines they would like to donate to the ACE program they would be most appreciated...you can send an email to the address below or leave a message at the phone number so we can make arrangements to pick them up.

We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for the fun and enjoyment of any special events whenever



they have the opportunity, just keep an eye on this column to find out what has and will be happening at Blanton Elementary. For more information. please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at karon.smutzer@ austinisd.org or call 512-841-5678

### Bartholomew Park Bamboo Control ... and **Residential Control**

Jeanette Swenson

On July 29, Watershed Protection met with WP residents to announce an up-dated bamboo eradication plan for a 3/10s of an acre plot at the east end of the park.

After a 5 year co-operative effort developed by Watershed Protection and supported by Austin Parks Foundation, Keep Austin Beautiful, WPNA, and Parks and Recreation, John Clement and Watershed Protection developed a more aggressive plan, which will use herbicides to eradicate the bamboo in the park. It's an 18 month process and has been implemented and monitored by Watershed Protection. Contact John Clement, john.clement@austintexas.gov or call 512-974-1475, if you have concerns.

### A huge thank you to all who joined in the initial efforts over the last 5 years

Given the proximity of the invasive bamboo to Tannehill Creek, the use of herbicides is a last resort. Hopefully, intelligent and judicious use of herbicides by Watershed Protection and WP creekside residents will not contaminate the creek.

Windsor Park resident and successful manager of a stand of bamboo on her property, Carol Kent expressed her disappointment that people at the July 29 meeting seemed overly eager to resort to toxic poisons as a solution. Carol suggested digging up roots to manage bamboo. If that is not feasible, horticultural vinegar (8-9%) is widely available and works. Check the following website: http://midatlanticgardening.com/didyou-know-vinegar-can-repkace-round-up/ for further information. Since many WP residences border a creek, please follow instructions if you use vinegar or a more



toxic product.

Watershed Protection cannot treat residential bamboo stands, but they recommend the following procedures. Dig up roots and dispose of in yard waste. Large stands:

- 1. Cut bamboo to ground level
- 2. Allow to grow to 2-3 feet
- 3. Spray leaves with a consumer grade formulation of the herbicide glyphosole such as: Ortho Ground; Clear Vegetation Clear; RoundUp Weed and Grass Killer; or UltraKill Weed and Grass Killer

READ AND FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS WHEN APPLYING HERBICIDES TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO NON-TARGET PLANTS OR ENVIRONMENT.

- 4. Do not cut the treated stalk for four weeks. Assess whether you can dig up roots. If not, cut stalks to ground again. Allow to re-grow and re-treat as above.
  - 5. Install a semi-rigid polyurethane root barrier18-24 inches deep along your property if you can control your own bamboo, but not your neighbors'.

To re-plant your cleared bamboo site, consider native, low water, food for wildlife plantings. Best of luck and be patient and judicious in your application of herbicides.

### Fire Ant Treatments, continued.

for 12-18 months. A bonus to broadcasting baits is that the amount of active ingredient is generally very small, which places less chemical into the environment.

With any pesticide treatment, read and follow all label instructions. Make sure to water in the pesticide if the label instructs to do so. Failure to water in chemicals when recommended by the label does an inadequate job of killing the ants. Baits should not be watered in or used before a rainfall event; baits will not be picked up by ants if they get wet.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

The information given herein is for educational purposes only.