

The PINE POST

A TAHITIAN VILLAGE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION ❖ MAY/JUNE 2011

WORK 'N' PLAY AT THE CRR

BY CARRIE KNOX

The weather is heating up and so is the interest in and involvement with your lovely Colorado River Refuge (CRR) Wildlife Preserve at the back of Tahitian Village. On March 26 and 27 an army of enthusiastic volunteers descended on the CRR to chop, clean, rake, cook and learn. Volunteers under the able leadership of trail master Dale Morrison and right hand man Bo Patterson cleaned the existing CRR and Lost Pines Nature trails, rehabilitated the benches and tables, mowed and weed cut extensive areas in both parks and removed trash and debris from the parks.

Before you could say “power tool” the work crew were hard at work, with some fun thrown in. One fun aspect of using the power tools was the wood art that Will Davis and David Watson created. You can go into the CRR and LPNT and search for their artwork in the trees along the river!

The City of Bastrop supported the work weekend with an expert crew lead by Jason Alfaro who came, saw and conquered the “widowmakers” hanging above the CRR trails. After a fast and furious morning the dangerous hanging branches and dead trees were gone and the crew was enjoying a bountiful lunch prepared by Bo and company. Pines and Prairies Land Trust board members helped with the lunch and provided cold drinks to all.

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Martha Barras and Dempsey Brown fix up a bench at the March 26, 2011 workday for the Lost Pines Nature Trails and the Colorado River Refuge.



Rogelio Gamino, Oscar Juarez, Jason Alfaro, Robert Ybarbo and Thomas Calvert take a break from working on the overhanging trees at the Colorado River Refuge during the March 26, 2011 workday.

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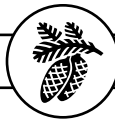
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As word spreads about the lovely picnic areas, fun trails and peaceful surroundings along the river at the two parks, use is increasing rapidly. It is great to see the properties being enjoyed, but not so great to see the trash. Future plans for the parks include strategies for cleaning up the trash and keeping the areas mowed and accessible. Can recycling is also in future plans. You can do your part too. An easy way to help out is to bring a trash bag with you when you are in the parks. Trash cans are available to drop your bags into when they are full. You can also report dumping and other illegal activity at the parks to the Bastrop County Sheriff's Dept. at 512-303-1080.

To get to the Colorado River Refuge and Lost Pines Nature Trails take Tahitian Drive to the river and turn right onto Riverside Drive. Continue along Riverside Drive past the golf course and the maintenance shed and onto the gravel part of Riverside Drive. Proceed until you come to the Lost Pines Nature Trails entrance. You can drive into the LPNT

parking lot and hike up and down the river. This area also has small boat access to the river.

If you would prefer the quiet, more remote trails of the CRR, continue past the LPNT entrance to the small parking for the handicapped access (Cottonwood Kings trailhead) into the CRR. Walk down the concrete ramp and you are in the cool, dark canopy of the riverside trails. It is an easy ½ hour walk to the railroad bridge over the river. You can turn back here or continue on to access the west end of the Colorado River Refuge and the completely different upland areas of the Dragonfly and Cliffhanger trails.

For more information on the Colorado River Refuge and other Pines and Prairies Land Trust programs call 512-308-1911 or visit online at www.pplt.org.

For more information about the Lost Pines Recreational Trails call 512-300-6609 or check out the web site at www.environmental-stewardship.org. 🌿

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY BOB PARMELEE



We made it through a very tough winter, relatively speaking. Although my broccoli and my neighbor's palms were wiped out by the cold, I'm happy to report that our screen of wax myrtles across the front of the water tank fence made it through. We are now turning our attention to some other opportunities. We were able to salvage the rock from the original entrance to Tahitian Village which was displaced by the Walgreen's construction. We are considering various ways to re-use the rock possibly surrounding a small raised bed flower area composed primarily of Texas native plants. But there are many options due to our long growing season. For example, turning the bed over to pansies, snap dragons and other cold-tolerant flowers might be a good alternative in the winter months. You have undoubtedly seen floral designs at entrances to other developments. Why not at Tahitian Village?

The signs hanging on the end of the Water District Building are in sad shape and we will be removing and replacing them. Current direction from the Water Board is to place new signs near Tahitian Drive rather than re-hanging them on the building.

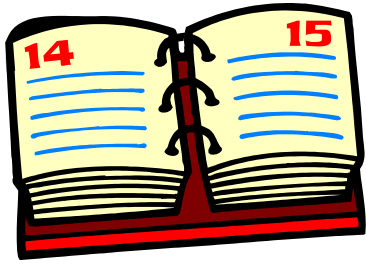
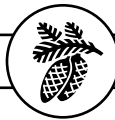
We are also going to join the Clean Sweep program except that efforts will focus on clean-up and refurbishment projects in the vicinity of the landscaped areas in the front of the Water District Building. Work currently contemplated includes renovating the raised beds, replacing perennials, re-attaching missing stones in the retaining wall, etc. If you would like to volunteer to help, just show up on the morning of Clean Sweep.

Our regular meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Water District Building. Your ideas and skills are welcome. 🌿

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Mark your calendars

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT BCWCID #2 CONFERENCE ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

MAY 2011

- ❖ May 2 – TV Architectural Control Committee Meeting at 5pm
- ❖ May 9 – Deed Restriction Committee Meeting at 7pm
- ❖ May 16 – TV Architectural Control Committee Meeting at 5pm
- ❖ May 17 – TV Property Owners' Association Meeting at 7pm
- ❖ May 19 – BCWCID #2 Meeting at 6pm
- ❖ March 23 – Beautification Committee Meeting at 6:30pm
- ❖ March 30 – BCWCID #2 OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 2011

- ❖ June 6 – TV Architectural Control Committee Meeting at 5pm
- ❖ June 13 – Deed Restriction Committee Meeting at 7pm
- ❖ June 16 – BCWCID #2 Meeting at 6pm
- ❖ June 20 – TV Architectural Control Committee at 5pm
- ❖ June 21 – TV Property Owners' Association Meeting at 7pm
- ❖ June 27 – Beautification Committee Meeting at 6:30pm



Memorial Day - May 30

Flag Day - June 14

DUMPING UPDATE

BY MARIANNA HOBBS

There were several dump sites found in the last few months. One was of particular interest because it appeared to be a place where many people enjoy their lunch but don't bother to take the trash with them. It is large and contained some incriminating evidence that will be turned over to Bastrop County Health and Sanitation. This site was already reported to the county.

On Saturday, March 26, a group of Master Naturalists, Friends of the Colorado River Refuge, the City of Bastrop, and concerned citizens helped to clean up some of the trails near the river. This has made a huge difference in the overall quality of the trails. It can't be patrolled around the clock, but if there is a problem, please report it to the appropriate authorities. The day of the clean up we witnessed a group from two vehicles loading rifles on their boats and going down the river. We called 911 and the Sheriff's Department came out shortly. It is a common form of entertainment to shoot anything that moves while floating down the river. This does not contribute to the ambiance and family atmosphere that we all want for the refuge. I picked up trash and poison ivy that day.

Remember that we all need to give a little to keep this unique subdivision beautiful. Report dump sites and/or dumpers to the Sheriff's Department at (512) 303-1080 or to the TVPOA at info@tahitianvillage.com. This is an extremely dry time and the risk of forest and grass fires is extremely high. The burn ban is on!



TAHITIAN FIRE WATCH

BY GEORGE MARTINEZ

This is a list of fires in the Tahitian Village/Pine Forest area in the past few weeks:

- 3-03-11 Mahalau Lane - 75'x 50' brush fire next to residence. Unknown origin.
- 3-07-11 Riverside Drive - Unattended control burn, two small piles of brush.
- 3-12-11 Pahoiki Lane - 1/2 acre brush fire in the woods. Unknown origin.
- 3-18-11 McAlister & 71 - 30 Acre brush fire. Hwy 71 closed 3 hours due to smoke. 35 homes evacuated North of Hwy 71. Unknown origin.
- 3-28-11 Kaupa Court - 1/4 acre brush fire due to incorrect burn barrel setup.
- 3-31-11 Kona Drive - 1/4 acre brush fire due to unattended and incorrect burn barrel setup.

Bastrop County is currently enforcing an outdoor burn ban. During a burn ban the only approved outdoor burning is in a properly constructed burn barrel. Properly constructed means: a barrel with a solid bottom, sitting off the ground on bricks, and the barrel must be covered with a metal screen with holes no greater than 1/4". The area around the barrel must be clear of any burnable material for a radius of 10 feet and the fire must be attended until the ashes are cold or extinguished with water.

The Bastrop Fire Department recommends you utilize the quarterly Clean Sweeps in Tahitian Village rather than burning in a barrel because we are experiencing exceptional drought conditions. These exceptional drought conditions have removed the moisture from the brush on the forest floor and in combination with the moderate to strong winds we have been experiencing any small spark or ember can quickly turn into a raging forest fire.



BCWCID #2 News

BY VICTOR GONZALEZ

One year ago, John Creamer, Chisty Kosser, and I were elected to the BCWCID #2 board. Our platform primarily consisted of working with the County to stretch our road dollars, looking for ways to cut costs, and providing residents with an ability and opportunity to express their opinions and to offer suggestions at Board meetings. As you know, the ability to construct and maintain the roads in Tahitian Village is a major concern; however, in addition to the roads, there are several other issues that we need to discuss with you.

Roads

There are several options regarding the repair and maintenance of Tahitian Village roads. We currently have about 65 miles of roads in Tahitian Village, and 30+ miles that need to be re-constructed. If residents choose to continue the rate of construction exercised by previous Boards, it will take 30 years before we can bring those roads up to County standards and hand them over to the County. Once the roads are in the County's hands, the "Special Road District" will no longer need to maintain those roads and thus our road fees would go away and, ultimately, the road district would no longer exist.

An alternative approach would be to issue bonds and have either the County or private contractors build our roads. Our roads would then be turned over to and maintained by the County, but we would have to pay for the bonds. As our subdivision grows, that burden would be shared by all who own property in Tahitian Village. Total cost would be around \$12 million dollars.

Water

We have a 30-year old water system in Tahitian Village. Our system needs to be upgraded. Just recently, a fire near our water well on McAllister, narrowly missed causing major damage. That fire burned approximately 30 acres just west of McAllister Road and south of Hwy 71 – fortunately, no homes were damaged. The point is that we have been very lucky regarding fires in Tahitian Village and at some point, we may not be so fortunate. That is why we need to think about upgrading our water system. A fire in Tahitian Village would be devastating. Total cost to upgrade our water system would be around \$5 million.

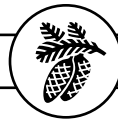
Wastewater

As you may know, last November the LCRA Board instructed their staff to begin to look at divesting themselves of approximately 30 wastewater systems in Central Texas. Our water district is one of the systems that is slated to be sold to a private investor. The BCWCID#2 Board is very concerned about this proposed sale. Currently, about 40% of residents of Tahitian Village receive wastewater service from the water district. If our system were to be sold to a private investment firm, the district will lose its ability to hold down costs. Third parties would be able to set rates that would recoup their costs plus a guaranteed rate of return on their investment. The district would lose control over the wastewater rates should such a sale occur. It will cost between \$4 - \$6 million to purchase the wastewater system from LCRA, depending on future negotiations.

There are those who would say "Why should we be concerned, we have no problems with our septic system?" In order for our neighborhood to grow, we need more residents and we need the ability to take care of their wastewater needs. At some point in time, those residents with septic systems may experience a failure and may need the ability to tap into the water district's waste water system. We want to be able to service the needs of all TV residents.

In the next year, we will more than likely see some development in Pine Forest, Unit 6, near the front of Tahitian Village. If all goes according to plans, 200+ homes will eventually be built and all of those homes will be connected to the water district's water and waste water system. This development would add 200 additional users who would also be paying their portion of the cost.

As you can see, there are several critical issues upon which we need input from residents. The Board believes it may be necessary to pursue a bond election in November. There would be three items to be voted on (roads, water, and waste water) and residents will be able to choose which of the bonds they want. To insure that Tahitian Village residents have an opportunity to make their concerns heard, we will be having at least two special meetings this summer (June and July). We will provide details about the benefits and costs of each bond posted on the water district website. Please make plans to attend. These are very important issues for all residents. Thank you. 🌲



FEATURES OF FIREWISE HOMES

BY MICHAL HUBBARD



Bastrop County, and folks who live in the piney woods in particular, are looking at a very dry and fire-prone Spring season. There has been little rain since last Fall, and no significant precipitation is expected in the extended future. More than one wild fire in the Tahitian Village

vicinity has been put out by local firefighters in recent weeks. An Outdoor Burn Ban has been instituted by the Commissioners' Court.

Residents have a variety of actions available to them, however, to relieve the danger of a wild land fire burning down their home. Some of these actions include the following:

1. **Create a Home Ignition Zone** of at least 30 feet around your home and outbuildings to create a defensible space where fire cannot easily take hold.
2. **Limb trees up to 6 to 10 feet above the ground.** Remove flammable plants. Clear leaves, pine needles, and other debris. Keep grass mowed.
3. **Replace wood roofing with fire-resistant materials** and keep the roof, gutters and eaves clear of debris.
4. **Construct fire-resistant attachments**, such as decks or fences. If these are not fire-resistant, create defensible space around and beneath them.
5. **If renovating, select fire resistant construction materials**, such as stucco, brick, or masonry.
6. **Plan for a disaster** before it happens. Discuss evacuation actions. Identify a meeting place away from the area. Know how you will get there and what you will need to take. Maintain emergency water. Plan for your pets. Practice fire drills. Leave before it is too late. When wildfire conditions exist, be ready.
7. **Identify your home** and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Your driveway should be at least 12 feet wide, with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, and a slope of less than 5 percent.

Reducing ignition hazards improves the chances your structure will survive. Dry landscape materials or pine needles on your roof are extremely flammable and burning embers blown into these materials can destroy your home. If the firefighters cannot find or enter your property, they cannot effectively fight the fire.

For more information, contact FireCAP, Inc, at michal_firecap@yahoo.com.

KEEP YOUR BUTTS IN THE CAR... DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS!



BY MARK RIPLEY

Would you dump your garbage in your neighbor's front yard?

Would you attempt to burn down your neighbor's home?

Would you attempt to destroy your entire neighborhood and community?

Would you attempt to burn down an entire forest and destroy all the wildlife?

Would you attempt to kill an innocent family or, worse yet, several innocent families?

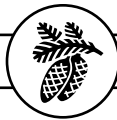
Of course you wouldn't, but the possibility of these tragic events happening occurs every time a cigarette butt is tossed or ashes are flicked from a car to the roadsides.

A recent study says smokers are messing with Texas more than most other people these days. The Texas Department of Transportation released research recently, showing that nearly 400 million cigarette butts were tossed on Texas roadways last year. That helped tobacco trash become the state's litter leader. The study said tobacco items accounted for 43 percent of the 1.1 billion pieces of trash calculated to litter Texas roads. Thanks to the efforts of our Pine Forest neighbor, Brian Craddock who helps pick up the trash along McAllister Road, we know there are in excess of 4444 cigarette butts per year thrown out car windows along McAllister Road from Tanglebriar Court north to Highway 71 (that is about 20 butts per day).

On March 18, 2011 a fire started near Tall Forest Drive and McAllister Road. It quickly engulfed a large section of Pine Forest and spread northward to Highway 71 before the Fire Department brought it under control. With the drought conditions we are experiencing, and the fact that over 4000 cigarette butts are being tossed each year, it's miraculous we have not seen more devastation. Even flicking ashes out the window is a tremendous threat to our properties and our lives.

Over the past several years we, as a society, have made tremendous changes to the way we view and react to certain behaviors. For example, we no longer accept and excuse people who are operating vehicles while impaired, we don't ride in cars without wearing seat belts, and we no longer turn a "blind eye" to abuse at any level. These changes are called a shift in paradigm.

For the safety of our community and the preservation of our lives, it is essential that we make a paradigm shift regarding the tossing of cigarette butts or flicking ashes out the windows of cars. We need to view this as unacceptable behavior with zero tolerance for exception. We must find a way to educate the young and old of this paradigm shift. Our homes, communities, and our very lives are at stake!



MARCH-APRIL 2011 TVPOA ACTIVE VIOLATION INFORMATION AS OF APRIL 15, 2011

BY ERIKA MCDONALD

Some residents are not aware that Tahitian Village is a deed restricted community and assume that compliance with deed restrictions is voluntary. It is true that Tahitian Village does not collect dues but compliance with the Association's restrictions is mandatory and the Property Owner's Association (POA) does reserve the right to enforce these restrictions through legal action and has done so in the past.

The process followed for addressing a violation is to first send the property owner a letter notifying them of the violation. This letter will be sent to the owner of the property and residents of rental property should be aware that violation letters are sent to landlords. The property owner has 15 days to comply or respond to the POA's initial violation letter. Absent an initial response, the property owner is sent a certified letter. Property owners who disregard the second notice will have the violation discussed at the next POA board meeting and action is taken according to the Board's direction. Our current list of active violations is listed below.

UNIT 1

Violation: Enclosing garage

Status: Owner was contacted by phone and a Notice Violation Letter was mailed on March 24, 2011. Owner informed the Association that they were not aware that a residence was required to have either a carport or a garage. Owner responded that all construction would cease. Violation resolved on March 28, 2011.

Violation: Brush pile that could attract snakes and rodents

Status: Violation Notice Letter was sent on March 1, 2011. Owner made contact with Association on March 17, 2011. Owner informed Association that they did not have a way to remove the brush. Association informed them of the free dumpster service (CLEAN SWEEP – April 16, 2011) for residents and informed the owners that it needed to be moved by April 18, 2011.

Violation: T-post metal fence visible from road

Status: Certified letter was sent on March 29, 2011. Owner contacted the Association on April 1, 2011 and informed the Association that the fence was only used as a dog pin and was temporary. Association informed owner that it must be moved to where it is not visible from the road. Violation resolved on April 13, 2011.

Violation: Prohibited Signage

Status: Violation Notice Letter was mailed to owners on April 14, 2011. Signage was picked up by the Association. Violation resolved.

UNIT 2

Violation: Installation of Irrigation System without ACC Approval

Status: Violation Notice Letter was mailed on March 24, 2011. Owner contacted Association on April 4, 2011 and informed the Association that the installer would be in contact to apply for permit. Installer submitted application on April 15, 2011 and the permit was approved on April 18, 2011.

UNIT 3

Violation: Structure constructed without ACC approval

Status: Certified letter was sent on March 28, 2011.

Violation: T-post fence visible from the road

Status: Certified letter was sent on March 29, 2011. Certified letter was received and accepted by owner on April 5, 2011. Owner has not made contact with the Association.

UNIT 4

Violation: Prohibited Signage

Status: Violation Notice Letter was sent on March 28, 2011. Garage sale signs were picked up by Association. Violation resolved.

Violation: Boat in Easement of Lot (lot not owned by boat owner)

Status: Made contact with owner on March 24 by email requesting it be moved. Owner responded same day and reported to the Association that it would be moved by March 25. Violation resolved on March 25, 2011.

UNIT 5

Violation: Trash and Debris

Status: Certified Letter was sent on March 28, 2011. County was notified of the violation.

Violation: Trash & Debris

Status: Certified letter was sent on March 28, 2011. County was notified of the violation.

Violation: Possible use of RV as a residence

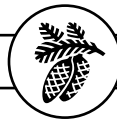
Status: Violation Notice Letter was sent on March 22, 2011. Certified letter was sent on April 15, 2011.

Violation: Prohibited fence that extends past front of residence

Status: Certified letter was sent on March 29, 2011. Owner of the property received and accepted certified letter on April 2, 2011. Owner has not made contact with the Association.

Violation: Vehicle parked in yard

Status: Certified letter was sent on March 29, 2011. County was notified of possible violations regarding registration and inspection. Owner received and accepted certified letter on March 31, 2011. Owner made contact with the Association on April 5, 2011. Owner informed the Association that the vehicle had been moved to the driveway. Violation resolution confirmed on April 13, 2011. 🌿



DEED RESTRICTIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BY BRUCE J WILSON, BWILSON39@AUSTIN.RR.COM - COMMITTEE MEMBER

At the March 15, TVPOA Board meeting the Board agreed that the work of the Deed Restrictions Committee should resume. The Board also discussed the inability under current law for the POA to amend its covenants and deed restrictions absent a two-thirds vote of the membership. There does not appear to be any legislation currently being considered that would allow a lesser percentage of members' approval to amend these documents.

The Board discussed the need to have "incentives" for the POA membership to vote to approve proposed changes to the deed restrictions. The Board continues to be hesitant about spending the financial resources needed to amend the deed restrictions if there is not a realistic chance that two thirds of the property owners will participate in the election.

The Committee met on March 28, and again on April 11. The Committee decided to meet the second Monday of each month at 7pm at the Water District building. We encourage all who would like to participate in the work and discussions to attend.

The Committee agreed that there should be a central online repository for information relative to the Committee. Several members of the Committee have agreed to assist with providing this service and have offered to do it at no cost to the TVPOA.

The Committee decided that Members can choose the areas of research and development in which they prefer to work. The areas needing research are numerous and include an extensive review of the covenants of other HOAs and POAs, the Committee would like to identify a community

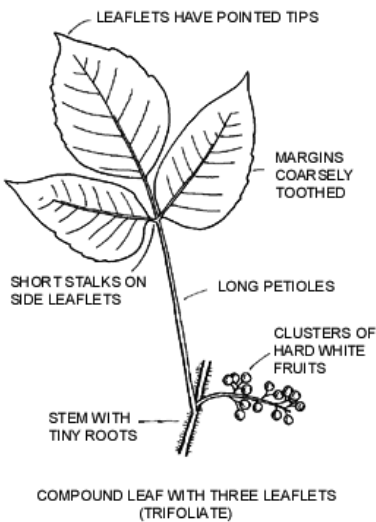
associations professional that would present to the Committee current information and practices of covenant and deed restrictions development, responsibilities and enforcement. The presentation would be developed to address the past, current and future needs of the TVPOA.

For those interested in assisting the Committee we would suggest you visit the Armbrust & Brown site. The firm works with community associations and laws (texasoalaw.com/). Other resources include the Community Associations Institute (cai.org) and specifically the Austin Chapter (caiaustin.org). The TVPOA has been a CAI member for several years.

The Committee has requested that deed restriction violations including final resolution of the matter be included in the Pine Post. The Committee felt it was important that the Membership be aware of the trends and complexities of deed restriction violations and how they are processed and resolved.

The Committee recognizes that the Members must become more involved in the process as changes to our current deed restrictions will only take effect when a significant number of Members care enough to vote for changes. It is important to know your experiences with any deed restriction situations as they will assist our Committee with modifying the current language. We encourage you to review the the current deed restrictions on the TV website and to stay informed as they are reported in the Pine Post. Please visit with, call, write, or e-mail the TVPOA Board, Manager, or Committee members about these issues. 🌿

CAN YOU CATCH POISON IVY FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS IT?



Facts: Leaves of three let it be!" is a popular expression for good reason. With its characteristic clusters of three leaves, poison ivy thrives throughout most of the United States. Its leaves and other parts contain an oil called urushiol—the same active ingredient found in poison oak and poison sumac. When exposed to urushiol—even a drop the size of a grain of salt—at

least 80 percent of adults will develop a rash marked by swelling, itching, and even oozing blisters.

The rash itself isn't contagious, only the oil can spread the affliction. If you are exposed to poison ivy and get urushiol on your skin, you can pass on poison ivy if you don't wash the area and touch somebody.

If you can't avoid those often hard-to-spot leaves of three, wash the oil off of your skin as quickly as possible after contact. A strong degreasing soap and plenty of water will do the trick, as will rubbing alcohol. Also wash clothes, the dog, rogue soccer balls, and even garden tools that may have come in contact, because urushiol can retain its potency for as long as five years. 🌿



CARING FOR YOUR LAWN IN DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Research in Austin by Texas A&M concluded that an attractive lawn and landscape provides a better return on investment than many other improvements made to your home. In fact it will return almost twice as much as a kitchen or bath remodel, increasing your home's value by as much as 18%. Additionally, healthy turf grass reduces erosion, filters the water and provides an unmatched cooling effect to the climate.

The following information will help you properly care for your lawn during drought:

1. **Reduce or eliminate nitrogen fertilizer.** At this time of the year it overly promotes leaf growth at the cost of rooting activity. Plan to fertilize in the fall.
2. **Increase the amount of potassium given to your lawn and landscape** as this will encourage deeper root growth and build stress resistance.
3. **Avoid all weed killers** (herbicides). Herbicides will dramatically reduce the vigor of the grass roots.
4. **Reduce thatch and compaction** as early in the year as possible so that moisture and air can reach the roots as easily as possible. Aeration is the best way to accomplish this.

5. **Sharpen the mower blade** several times during the turf growing season. A dull blade shreds the grass instead of cleanly cutting it like a sharp blade. Shredded turf can greatly increase water loss.

6. **Mow the grass during the coolest part of the day.** Besides being more comfortable, less plant moisture is lost when mowing takes place during the cooler times of the day.

7. **Mow as high as possible** to promote deep rooting and maximize soil shading. Although studies have shown that taller grasses can use more water, there is a greater benefit to deep roots and reduced soil moisture loss from evaporation.

8. **Do not use a grass catcher/bagger.** Leave the clippings on the lawn; they act as a mulch and fertilizer to provide important nutrients to the turf. Additionally, it will save you time and the garbage trucks and landfills will be spared. Note: Be sure to remove clumps of grass. They will block the sun, decay, and kill the underlying grass.

9. **Reduce traffic on the lawn** at all times and especially during a drought. Foot traffic and even lawn mowers can injure grass plants and cause almost immediate dehydration.

10. **Proper irrigation:** Night time irrigation is discouraged because of the predisposition for disease. For water to be used by the plant, evaporation from the leaf must be taking place. If this is not happening a large percentage of the water is being lost to gravitational pull. The optimal irrigation start time is between five and six A.M.

For addition information about amount and duration of irrigation, visit www.realgreenlawn.com and click on "drought alert".



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HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

BY MATTHEW SHELLEY

Making your own natural household cleaners and other green living ideas are a wonderful way to sustain your community. Sometimes it's difficult to know exactly where to start, but one great place is in your own home.

There are countless cleaning products catering toward a much safer, non-toxic lifestyle. However, what you may not know is that you probably already possess the materials necessary to make your own cleaners.

Equipping yourself with just a few simple ingredients from your cupboard will help you take "going local" to a whole new level. Not only are they safe for everyone in your home, but they're much cheaper to produce.

Baking soda & vinegar cleaners

Let's start with the basics that you probably already know about. The two most well-known are baking soda and vinegar. They work well on cleaning and deodorizing floors, counters, scrubbing ovens, and cleaning your drains. Mix a little water in with some baking soda to make a paste and start scrubbing away.

Club soda is another popular cleaner prime for cleaning windows. Now, onto some that you might not know about.

Natural ingredients that clean

- **Black Tea:** Boil unsweetened, loose leaf black tea and let cool. Pour into a spray bottle, apply to your hardwood

floors, and hand-wash with a soft rag. You'll be amazed at the shine this can bring back to your beautiful hardwood floors.

- **Olive Oil & Lemon Juice:** Mix ½ cup of olive oil with ¼ cup of lemon juice to make furniture polish. You can add essential oils to give it a great scent. Lemon juice is also beneficial for metal surfaces and dissolving soap scum. If you cut a lemon in half and sprinkle baking soda on it, the lemon can be used to clean counters, dishes, and stains. When you're done, put the lemon peel through the garbage disposal for a fresh scent.

- **Grapefruit seed extract:** This is highly concentrated so you need only add a few drops to a spray bottle full of water for a wonderful surface cleaner. There's no need to rinse it off either. As a side note, grapefruit seed extract can also be used in the same concentration with water to clean fruits and vegetables.

- **Green tea:** Steep this anti-oxidant rich tea and dry it out thoroughly. You can then sprinkle the dried tea in your cat's litter box to help deodorize it. Scatter some of the dried leaves on your carpet, wait 10 to 15 minutes and vacuum for the same deodorizing effect.

With these readily available cleaning remedies, green living is easier and more beneficial than ever. 🌿

TAHITIAN VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS NETWORK *NOTICE TO TAHITIAN VILLAGE RESIDENTS*

In an effort to provide you quick and easy access to information important to you as a resident of our beautiful Tahitian Village, we would like to add you to the new TVNNN e-mail list. This list is also vital in distributing information about political and TVPOA, TVACC & BCWCID#2 Board candidates, missing/found pets, garage sales and unfortunately, vandalism and burglaries. Please help us keep you informed by providing the following information (by doing so, you will automatically be added to the TVNNN e-mail list):

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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Thanks for your support and interest in our beautiful neighborhood!

NOTE: Please do not resubmit your information if you have already turned this in from a previous issue of the Pine Post. Thank you! 🌿

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