



# Saddle Bags

## President's Notes

### Meet Your Neighbors BBQ Lunch

We had a good turnout for our BBQ lunch in April the theme was **Meet Your Neighbors**. We had approximately eighty of our property owners attending the annual lunch for our neighbors. This year it was decided to forego our normal walk around the neighborhood and clean up our roadways. The roads in our subdivision are kept clean by our residents and primarily speaking Ms Helen Jones. She was also recognized during the lunch. New residents of Saddleridge were introduced and recognized during the meeting.

### Board Presentations

The Board President and Treasurer gave a financial and status report of the Property Owners Association.

### Speakers

Sheriff Allen Bridges spent some time with the Home Owners addressing some of our concerns about vandalism and burglaries. There was also a brief question and answer session for our residents.

Jan Fulkerson of the Texas State Forest Service gave a Firewise Presentation on fire prevention. She also passed out several pamphlets relating to home fire safety.

### Door Prizes Given At Lunch

Five door prizes of \$25 gift certificates given at the lunch.

The grand winners drawn were:

**Ace Hardware** - Mr. and Mrs. Jones

**Cedar Steakhouse/ Casa Loma** - Tom and Rose Klepfer

**Movie Gallery** - Mr. and Ms. Ogg.

**Kiss the Cook** - Tracy Zachgo

**Brookshire Brothers** - Mr. and Mrs. Eastlake

### No Soliciting Signs

The Board installed No Soliciting Allowed Signs at the West and South Entrances to Saddleridge.

### Neighborhood concerns

#### Vandalism

We have had a report of shaving cream being used on a resident's driveway and very explicit language being used. Please help our neighborhood watch keep a good watch for any acts of vandalism. All of us are living in this wonderful neighborhood. Let's keep it nice for all of us.

The stop sign at Mission Trail and Canyon Gap was knocked over. It has been replanted and put back in position.

#### Loose Pets

There have been some reports of pets running loose in Saddleridge. This is against our covenants. There is also a Hays County Ordinance against loose pets. Please help our neighbors if you notice their pet on the loose.

### Water Concerns

We've had a couple of concerns about Water Wells. It is wise to conserve your water during these dry periods. Some of our shallower wells have run dry in a dry summer such as we have now. It may be difficult for a shallow well to recharge after running dry.

### Burn Ban

Hays Count Fire Dept. says we're in a severe drought index which brings about the ban on open fire burns. Dry grasses and recent winds can quickly cause a small controlled burn to get out of control. Please be careful and watch your burns closely. When the Burn Ban is lifted it is always a good idea to inform the sheriffs dispatch department of your intention to do a controlled burn. Burn ban information is available from a link on the Saddleridge website at [www.saddleridge.com](http://www.saddleridge.com).

Ron Steel

### 2008 Board of Directors

**President:** Ron Steel, (512) 392-0542, [president08@saddleridge.com](mailto:president08@saddleridge.com)

**Vice-President:** Scott Brown, (512) 847-2766, [vicepresident08@saddleridge.com](mailto:vicepresident08@saddleridge.com)

**Secretary:** Diane Watson, (512) 847-3682, [secretary08@saddleridge.com](mailto:secretary08@saddleridge.com)

**Treasurer:** Lynn Williams, (512) 847-0390, [treasurer08@saddleridge.com](mailto:treasurer08@saddleridge.com)

### Architectural Committee

**Chair:** Ricardo Cardenas, (512) 847-7363, [cardrlmb@austin.rr.com](mailto:cardrlmb@austin.rr.com)

**Member:** Pat Caballero, (512) 847-5536, [pccaballero@austin.rr.com](mailto:pccaballero@austin.rr.com)

**Member:** Francis Savage, (512) 847-0955, [fisavjr@earthlink.net](mailto:fisavjr@earthlink.net)

### Clubhouse Rental

Karen Stewart, (512) 722-3133, [kstewart-art1718@austin.rr.com](mailto:kstewart-art1718@austin.rr.com)

### Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Judy Garrett, (512) 847-9112, [judeegee@austin.rr.com](mailto:judeegee@austin.rr.com)

### Firewise Coordinator

Ruben Madrid  
[firewise@saddleridge.com](mailto:firewise@saddleridge.com)

## Neighborhood Watch Coordinators Needed

If you're one of the current Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, you've probably been doing this for a number of years, and might be happy to turn your block over to someone new for awhile. If you're willing to serve as a Block Captain (or know someone who might be),

contact Judy Garrett (see above for email and phone). The position involves letting Judy know when you have a new neighbor, welcoming them, and helping with deserts at some of the neighborhood functions. Let Judy know if you can help!

## Treasurer's Report

With the publication of this newsletter we have reached the half way point of the 2008 Saddleridge Budget. I'm happy to report that with one small unexpected repair to the Clubhouse septic system our budget is in good shape. If this trend continues through the rest of the year our revenue will cover our expenses.

Lot transfers have slowed down some from previous years. Higher fuel costs have impacted some of our expenses too. With the rate increase from PEC utility, costs at the south entrance and at the clubhouse have gone up. Our lawn mowing costs have remained the same but I wouldn't be surprised to see that change when it's time to renew our

contract.

Through diligent board oversight, the dues we collect continue to cover the operating expenses of Saddleridge Property Owners Association. The dues payments received in December and January were very good. We were able to collect most of the remaining 2008 dues in February and March with interest. We continue working to collect the few remaining outstanding dues through reminder letters and liens.

Lynn Williams

## 2008 National Night Out

The new date for our 2008 outing will be on Tuesday, October 7, at the Saddleridge Club House. The new date was decided by the National Association of Town Watch because of the extreme summer heat in Texas.

We plan on having the local representatives from the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, EMS, and our Saddleridge Board of Directors as speakers.

Hope you will consider attending as it is a very informative meeting.

Judy Garrett

Saddleridge Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

## Architectural Committee Reminder

This is just a reminder to all property owners seeking approval for any construction addition on your property: We require location plans showing the addition as it sits on the property with dimensions to property lines indicating conformance to Saddleridge covenants and restrictions. Quite often this information is missing causing a delay in the approval cycle. You can review the Saddleridge covenants and restrictions at [www.saddleridge.com](http://www.saddleridge.com). Thanks.

Your Architectural Committee

## Wimberley Calendar of Events

### July:

- 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Get Smart @ Corral theater
- 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Speed Racer @ Corral theater
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Rose's Dilemma by the Wimberley Players
- 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Kit Kittredge An American Girl @ Corral theater
- 28<sup>th</sup> Shakespeare under the stars opens at EmilyAnn Theater (A Comedy of Errors and King Lear)

### August:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> The Incredible Hulk @ Corral theater
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wimberley Lions Market Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Starry Night Gala at EmilyAnn Theater
- 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Journey to the Center of the Earth @ Corral theater
- 9<sup>th</sup> Last night for Shakespeare
- 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Kung Fu Panda @ Corral theater
- 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Broadway under the stars at EmilyAnn
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> The Dark Knight @ Corral theater
- 25<sup>th</sup> First day of School at WISD
- 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, II @ Corral theater

### September:

- 6<sup>th</sup> - Wimberley Lions Market Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Wimberley Valley Art League Studio Tours
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Dracula by the Wimberley Players

### October:

- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wimberley Lions Market Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> blessing of the animals at EmilyAnn Theater
- 18<sup>th</sup> Community-wide garage sale at Lion's field

### November:

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Wimberley Lions Market Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bazaar at Wimberley Community Center
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Belles by the Wimberley Players

### Weekly events:

- Farmer's Market Wednesday 3 till 6 at Lion's field
- VFW Bingo Friday night at 7

Scott Brown

# To Feed or Not to Feed—That is the Question

Do you feed the deer? Do you want to help them, especially in a year like this; so dry and with such poor grazing? Well, if you really care about them, you won't.

Or maybe you just like to look at them. After all, who doesn't like having their own Bambi walking around outside their house?

But do you really want them so close? We all know about how they eat the landscaping we plant. That doesn't really matter though; after all, part of the reason you moved out here was to live close to nature, and landscaping isn't natural, is it?

Just by clearing your property though, you altered the natural environment of the area. You cleared a place for your home and I cleared some for mine, and the neighbor down the road cleared some for his place. We have changed the way water runs off, made more sunny areas, and gotten rid of some of the native vegetation. We have altered the natural ecosystem. We have changed the natural landscape 2 or 3 or 5 acres at a time. We have created open space along the edge of a wooded area; perfect deer habitat. In addition, if you do any gardening at all, you have replaced the native vegetation with exotic species, unless you work exclusively with native plants. And how many of us can really claim we use only natives? I know I can't, and I am a pretty serious native/xeriscape gardener.

Why does all this matter? Well, by changing the natural vegetation of an area, we also change the carrying capacity of that area. The carrying capacity is the natural ratio of forage to animal population. Nature usually does a good job of balancing this out; not normally by starvation, but by lower birth rates. In times of

good forage, the does are more likely to have successful pregnancies. In times of drought, conception rates drop. After all, nature does not want to waste the vitality of the deer when the chance of raising a fawn to maturity is slim.

When you artificially feed deer, especially a high protein supplement like corn or manufactured deer feed, you ensure good body weight in the does. Conception stays artificially high, and more fawns are born than the area can support. Even if the extra feeding continues, there is still a high chance that many of these youngsters will not survive. After all, deer do not live on grain alone. They are herbivores and require vegetation to live and thrive.

What do you think all those extra fawns are going to eat? Deer overpopulation is the leading cause of lack of biodiversity in semi urban areas. More than clearing, more than weather, more than anything! So that natural look you loved so much when you moved out here, kiss it goodbye. Deer overpopulation will ensure that no young trees get past the sapling stage, no shrubs will get to flowering size, and many of the native wildflowers will never get a chance to flower. Many of these plants will not live to maturity or even have the opportunity to make seeds. Some will; some are even pretty! Nevertheless, they will quickly become a monoculture, like the Mexican Hats are already doing in our area. I like them, but they will very successfully crowd out the salvias, and the verbenas, and the coreopsis, and the... (Put in whatever wildflower you want.)

These changes have far-reaching effects. Our songbirds will no longer have the well-rounded diet needed for

good health as most songbirds are seed eaters. Songbird populations show significant declines in areas with heavy deer populations. As the songbirds go, so go other small animals. As the biodiversity of the vegetation declines, many animal species follow suit.

I know how much we like to look at deer in the yard. It makes us feel that we've left the hustle and bustle of city living behind. But, do you *really* want them so close? After all, those weak and sickly youngsters, and the does that have to put all of their bodily reserves into making milk for that youngster, will be more susceptible to parasites and disease than normal. Being a wild animal, they will go off to die in the bushes where we can't see them. (That is if they manage to avoid being hit by a car. Vehicle accidents have replaced predation as one of the leading causes of deer mortality. It's not very good for us either!)

The parasites that proliferated on those weakened animals won't stay in the bushes. The deer tick doesn't live exclusively on deer; your dog, your cat, you & me all qualify as suitable hosts. Lyme disease and Erlichia have debilitating effects in dogs and humans. Months, if not years of antibiotic therapy might be required if you contact the disease. (Have you ever wondered why Lyme disease was first recognized in the Northeastern part of the US? Pennsylvania currently has a larger deer population than it did before Europeans settled in the area.)

Another animal that has benefited by the new landscape is the coyote. They too, like the edges of forestland. In addition, as opportunistic as they are, they like living near us; they are great scavengers of all the good food we hu-

mans drop or the pet food we leave out for our pets to eat. The coyotes eat deer when they can get them. All those weak fawns are easy pickings for the coyotes. The coyotes are also very effective at killing the wild turkeys living among us. Those same turkeys depend on having a very diverse food source; over grazing by the deer will doom them even if they survive the coyotes. After the coyotes are done eating the fawns and turkeys, your pets could be next. Little dogs and domestic cats usually don't survive their first meeting with a coyote.

If you really care about nature, you will let nature take care of itself. Mother Earth knows what she is doing. While we have created prime deer habitat by clearing the edges of the forest, we can respect the processes in place that ensure the health and well being of the flora and fauna of that new ecosystem. **DO NOT FEED THE DEER.**

Here are some links that may better explain the consequences of feeding deer.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1044&context=ewdcc5>

[http://www.mianus.org/Publications/newsletter\\_fall2005.pdf](http://www.mianus.org/Publications/newsletter_fall2005.pdf)

<http://gis.esri.com/library/userconf/proc01/professional/papers/pap643/p643.htm>

Sun Gatto