

Waterwood Neighborhood News

December 2022

Calendar

12/12 WIA Meeting
12/10 Santa at WIA!
12/14 Women's League Meeting
12/16 MUD Seminar/ Meeting
12/18 House Decorating Judging
12/23-26 WIA office closed for Christmas (to be determined)

Links

(Click to follow)

[Waterwood Website](#)

[Waterwood MUD](#)

[Waterwood Pictures](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

Waterwood Security
936-661-2800

San Jacinto County Sheriff
936-653-4367

WIA Office
936-891-7710

Waterwood MUD
936-891-7182

Waterwood VFD
936-755-0960.

Due to the Christmas Holiday, the Waterwood Improvement Association December 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors will be held Monday, December 12th, at 9am in the WIA building.

Waterwood Improvement Association Dues

As you are all valued residents of Waterwood and have always been conscientious about paying your annual WIA dues on time. This is a friendly reminder that your WIA payment of \$775.00 is due no later than 31 December 2022.

If you forgot to mail or stop by the office to make your payment, please do so before the deadline. If you have already paid your dues, we thank you and please disregard this notice.

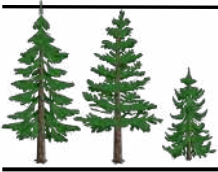
Annual invoices were mailed out 1 November 2022 so if you have yet to receive yours please contact the WIA Office. And, as usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the WIA office at 936-891-7710.

Thank you,

Phyllis Lavallais, Director

Did you know?

WIA has waterproof maps of Lake Livingston and surrounding communities for sale in the WIA office for only \$5 per map.



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Waterwood Women's League

Our December Meeting and luncheon
Wednesday, Dec. 14th
10 am at Debbie Maas' home



We will also have a **cookie exchange** - so please plan to bring 3 dozen HOME MADE cookies, 1 dozen to share while having lunch and 2 dozen for the exchange. You can bring something to take all of your cookies home in if you would like to and please bring the Name of your cookies with your name on it (so if anyone wants the recipe they can contact you and we don't have to make a bunch of copies for everyone).

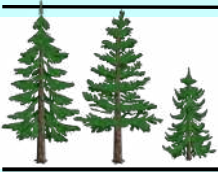
We will be collecting **Toys for Tots** at this meeting, they DO NOT have to be in a gift bag just plain NOT wrapped.



We are always interested and welcoming to any new ladies who would like to come and see what our group is about so please reply with any questions or just come and plan to join us as a new member!

PLEASE be sure to RSVP via our FB page. The board is providing lunch for all members and all members are providing cookie desserts!

Click the link for our Facebook page and more information about the
[Waterwood Women's League](#)



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Waterwood MUD

Roy Knapp, Board President

The Waterwood MUD district will have its monthly meeting on December 16th. The board and Precision Utilities will have a work shop beginning at 12:00 PM with our regular meeting beginning at 3:00 in The WIA building. Both meetings are open to the public.

We ask all residents to remember to winterize their out door pipes and check their irrigation systems to avoid breakage. As always the Precision Utility office is open for all inquiries and bill payments.

The board would like to wish one and all a Merry Christmas. May the New Year bring us all Peace, Prosperity and Plenty.

Have you been Naughty or Nice?

Santa will be at the WIA office

Saturday, December 10th

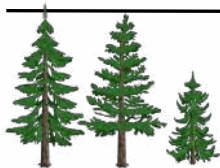
From 2pm-4pm

Come have your photo

taken with Santa

Refreshments will be served





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Keith's Corner: *WIA Maintenance*

Maintenance at Waterwood is a very interesting job. Every day brings new challenges. My respect for my predecessor, Rick Harlow, gets bigger as I learn more.

I have started three documents that will help me keep an effective score of how well we're doing in Maintenance:

- 1) A Maintenance Master List in which we keep track of every issue or problem, no matter from which source it came. This will allow us to assess each item in the List, and assign the most important (and sometimes, most cost-effective) to be fixed first.
- 2) A Maintenance Log in which I keep track of all work done. If anyone needs to know what I've been working on, this log will tell them.
- 3) A 'meeting report' that I present to the Board at each monthly meeting. This report will have the 2 documents shown above attached.

This is a short article this month. I've spent a lot of time on Rantoul Street, because there have been several issues at that location. Kudos to our friends from the MUD organization, who fixed the worst of the problems about 2 weeks ago; this was a deep pothole that tried to eat some cars.

In the near future we will issue an RFQ [Request For Quotation] to at least three and probably four contractors for the General Landscape Maintenance contract for Waterwood. This will include our current contractor, Timberlake Nurseries. Larry Maas, Lisa Hayman, and I have been working on the next contract, which will last for 2 years. This contract will be evaluated over the New Year and be awarded to the successful bidder in January 2023. This contract covers upkeep and mowing of (mainly) the common areas of the subdivision and the Park / Pavilion complex.

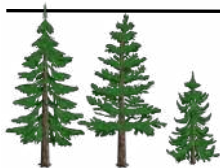
I personally cut up several downed trees blocking two streets after the storms from about 10 days ago. Storms and high winds keep all of us on our toes. The defining criteria regarding downed trees is for us to keep the streets passable for traffic and especially emergency vehicles.

I have recruited several very handy gentlemen to serve as a "Safety Net" to assist in emergency situations where we cannot wait for a contractor to arrive. I plan on letting you know next month who these guys are; I appreciate them very much. You may see us out in the wind and the rain some stormy day, keeping things clear. Thanks to all of you who have stepped up to be that Safety Net.

Regarding trees, please keep an eye out for dead pine trees. The stress of the freeze from 2 winters ago, combined with the added stress from the 4-month drought this last summer, will likely result in lots of dead pines, probably due to beetles.

Keith Caulfield, Director, Maintenance Chairman/WNGRA Liaison


 Keep reading for more information about beetles and tree health...



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Yaupon – *It's Everywhere!*

By Maryann Readal



All of us easily recognize our iconic yaupon shrub or small tree. The edges of our woods are full of them and if they had their way, our yards would be full of them, too. Dwarf, columnar, and weeping varieties of this shrub can be found in the plant nurseries. They can be an attractive, deer-resistant addition to the landscapes around our homes.

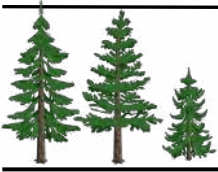
The beauty of this plant is its bright red berries that cover the female trees around Christmas time. Though poisonous to humans, the berries provide food for birds and other wildlife all winter long. If eaten, the berries can cause nausea and vomiting in humans. Yaupon is a host plant for the Henry Elfin's butterfly.



An interesting fact about this shrub is that it is the only native plant that contains caffeine. Prior to the twentieth century, tea made from yaupon leaves was a very common beverage enjoyed by Native Americans and the early colonists of the south alike. Early use of the leaves for tea involved roasting the leaves and then boiling them. Prolonged boiling caused the tea to turn black; and it was, therefore, called the "Black Drink."

Native Americans drank the tea during rituals and socially when welcoming guests. Ritual use involved drinking a very large amount of the hot beverage after fasting. The extensive tea drinking caused vomiting. Only men participated in the ritual and women

Continued...



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Continued...

were not even permitted to be near the boiling beverage. Because of the resulting vomiting, Carl Linnaeus gave the plant its botanical name, *Ilex vomitoria*.

Yaupon was used also as a medicine by the Native Americans. It was used as an emetic and a general tonic drink. Native Americans also used the yaupon wood to make arrows. Today the wood is used to make the white pieces used in chess sets and to decorate the home for the holidays.

The shrubs are now coming into their full glory in our woods and landscapes. I enjoy seeing the bright berries and am happy to know that the berries will provide food and shelter all winter long for the birds we love.

Worried about your trees' health?

You're not alone. Great concern has arisen recently with the loss of trees in our area. Here is some helpful information provided by our local experts in the field, Michelle Moss, SJC Extension Agent, and Matthew Garrison, SJC Forester:

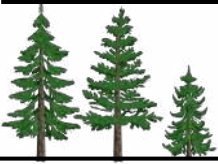
“While we hate that folks are losing trees and seeing damage, what we are seeing is NOT Southern Pine Beetle. SPB is an explosive pest and can easily wipe out large areas quickly, BTB and IPS tend to be fairly localized.

The reason we are getting a higher occurrence with larger cluster sizes is due to the last two years of erratic weather. The freeze in February 21 did a number on pretty much every tree in east Texas, this followed by a VERY wet summer last year, and then a VERY dry one this year; has placed a large amount of stress on our forests. IPS (Ips Bark Beetle) and BTB (Black Turpentine Beetle) are attracted to damaged or stressed trees. Obviously with an abundance of stressed and weakened trees, it ends up being a buffet for the insects.

The sad part is two-fold, both insects are common and native insects and are always present, it is just that the effects are not typically this visible. The second part is that aside from treating the entire stem of a pine with permethrin, there is little that one can do.”

For more information, <https://sanjacinto.agrilife.org/>

The following two pages are handouts provided by Matthew Garrison, San Jacinto County Forester.



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Forest Health: Ips Bark Beetle

All species of pine in the eastern half of Texas may be attacked by Ips bark beetles (*Ips grandicollis*, *I. avulsus*, *I. calligraphus*). Trees greater than 4-5 years old that have been injured, stressed, or recently felled are subject to attack. Ips beetles often kill only a few trees in a given area, but under certain conditions (e.g. severe drought) they may become epidemic and destroy hundreds of trees. The beetles inoculate trees with a blue-stain fungus they carry on their bodies. This fungus discolors the wood making the lumber from Ips-killed trees less valuable.

Identification:

Ips beetles are cylindrical, black to reddish brown in color, and vary in size from 3/32" to 1/4" in length. Despite their small size, they can be identified by a scooped out rear end surrounded by spines. Immature adults, found under the bark, are usually yellowish to light brown. Fully-grown larvae and pupae are yellowish white and vary from 3/32" to 3/16" in length. Eggs are very small and white. All life stages (eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults) occur under the bark. They do not bore into the wood.



Signs of Attack:

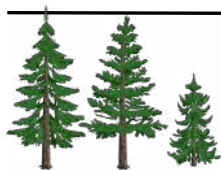
Infested trees usually have numerous white to reddish brown pitch tubes, about the size of a wad of gum, on the bark. In trees of low vigor, pitch tubes may be lacking and the earliest signs of attack will be reddish boring dust in bark crevices at eye level.

Habits:

Adult beetles are attracted to weakened trees and chew round holes through the outer bark into the cambium layer. "Y-" or "H-" shaped egg tunnels (galleries) are constructed in the soft inner bark parallel with the grain of the wood, and are mostly free of boring dust. The distinct gallery pattern is used for identification purposes even when larvae and adults are absent. Eggs are laid singularly along the side of the egg gallery. Larva feed perpendicular to the egg gallery by constructing a gallery filled with boring dust. Larval galleries increase in width as the larva grows in size. Egg galleries are a constant width because the adult beetles never increase in size. Larvae mature, pupate, and transform to adults in 25 to 40 days, depending on the temperature. Emerging adults may or may not attack nearby trees.

Control:

Predators, parasites, diseases, and starvation take a toll on Ips beetles, but usually not until the tree is beyond saving. These factors, plus changes in weather conditions, and proper harvesting practices can reduce Ips attacks and timber losses. Salvage cutting and good forest management are the most practical control measures. High value trees can be sprayed with an approved insecticide, but the entire bark surface must be covered for control to be effective. Spraying to prevent attacks also can be effective.



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Forest Health: Black Turpentine Beetle

Attacks from black turpentine beetles (*Dendroctonus terebrans*) may occur on all pines native to the South. It is most common in pines stressed by serious drought, flooding, storms, wildfires, and cutting operations. Use of mechanized harvesting equipment, which damages residual trees, compacts the soil, and injures the roots, has increased damage by black turpentine beetles.

Identification:

The adult beetle is $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " long and dark brown or black. This beetle may be confused with *Ips* bark beetles, but is larger, more heavily bodied, and does not have a scooped out and spined posterior. Creamy white larvae are very small with a reddish-brown head, and are approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ " long. The yellowish-white pupae are about $\frac{1}{4}$ " in length.

Signs of Attack:

The most obvious sign of attack is pitch tubes on the lower trunk (usually below six feet) and stumps. Pitch tubes are large--sometimes about the size of a walnut or half-dollar-- and white to reddish. Older tubes have a sugar-like (granular) texture. Foliage color is not a satisfactory indicator, since large infestations may develop before any trees are killed or foliage turns brown. Some trees will survive attacks.

Life Cycle:

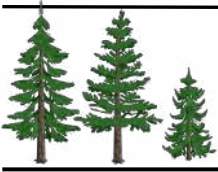
Adult beetles are attracted to injured or weakened trees and fresh stumps. They bore into the cambium layer (just under the bark) and excavate a broad vertical gallery kept clean of boring dust. Eggs are laid in clusters along the edge of the gallery. After hatching, larvae feed side by side, destroying large patches of the cambium area. No individ-

ual larval feeding galleries are present, as with other bark beetles. When enough larvae are present, they girdle the cambium causing the tree to die. After pupation occurs between the bark and the wood, adult beetles emerge and seek new host trees. Neither the beetles nor the larvae bore into the wood of the tree. Two to four generations a year may be produced in Texas.

Control:

Build up of this insect is comparatively slow, and serious problems usually can be prevented. Proper forest management practices and harvesting operations can reduce beetle attacks. In logging areas with active black turpentine beetle infestations, fresh stumps and damaged residual trees can be sprayed with an insecticide containing permethrin or bifenthrin. Spraying trees that have been attacked is usually successful if infestations are light or if the trees are not too severely weakened. Spraying to prevent attacks on adjacent trees is also practical. Salvage removal of heavily infested trees will help reduce additional losses.





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Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!

“Laissez les bons temps rouler, Cher!”

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Mardi Gras-Cajun Cook-off and Golf Cart Parade at Bayou Waterwood

Members of the community are invited to cook-up their best Cajun dish in 3 categories; appetizer, entrée, or dessert. Non-partisan judges will select the best dish in each category and for a little “lagniappe”, there will also be a “People's Choice Award”.

Crawfish, sausage, corn, and potatoes will be for sale at cost. We are looking for crawfish pots, burners, and chefs. If you can lend a crawfish pot and burner or can volunteer to help cook, please contact the WIA office. **We would also ask if you plan to purchase crawfish, please contact the WIA office and let us know how many pounds you intend to purchase.**

Make you lick your lips and say “Ça c'est bon”

Also, don't forget to decorate your golf carts in your best Mardi Gras/Cajun themed designs. Judging for the best-dressed golf cart will be awarded.

Stay tuned for more information as the date draws near, cher! Merci!

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT, JANUARY 2023

Come join the fun and get to know your neighbors with a friendly game of cornhole!

(Date to be determined)





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It's that time of year...

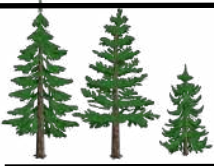
Waterwood Christmas Decorating Contest

Be sure to leave your Christmas lights on between the hours of *6pm-9pm, Saturday the 18th* for the judging of the outdoor house decorations. Houses are judged in various categories. Good luck!!

Wishing you and yours a very merry, safe, and blessed Christmas and a wonderful start to 2023. And remember, the Star still shines.



From the staff and editing department of the Waterwood Neighborhood News ;)



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American
Heart
Association.



Come and learn how to push hard and push fast your way to a CPR certification! Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the United States. Early detection and intervention could be the contributing factor to saving a life.

Learn to recognize life threatening bleeding and how to properly intervene. From identifying types of bleeding, packing a wound, to accurate placement of a tourniquet, this hands-on class is a great way to prepare yourself if an emergency arises.

My name is **Kaitlin Cook** and I am the Vice President of the San Jacinto County First Responders. My goal is to get as many SJC citizens educated and trained in CPR and bleeding control. San Jacinto is a very large county, which means it could be a while until help arrives. Take the steps now to educate you and your family on emergency procedures.

Below you will find class descriptions and prices.

CLASSES:

BLS- CPR for Healthcare Providers \$50 per person

Heartsaver CPR AED- CPR course for individuals with little to no medical training who need a completion card for their job. \$50 per person

Family and Friends CPR- This course is a hands-on informative class that does not certify you. You will receive a course completion card at the end. Great for parents, grandparents, kids, and community members. \$20 per person. *Get a group of 10 together and price will go down to \$15 per person*

Stop the Bleed- Free to the public. Max class size is 20 individuals.

Contact Kaitlin Cook by:

Email- sjcfresponders@gmail.com

San Jacinto County First Responders



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