

THE Canyon Call

The newsletter of the Sunset Canyon Land Owner's Association
December 2025

www.sunsetcanyon.org

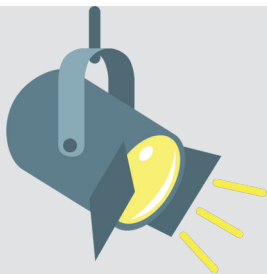


HOW TO CREATE A BEE & BUTTERFLY WATER STATION

Courtesy of the Hays County Master Gardener Association

Bees and butterflies need water but some water is too deep for them to drink safely. Won't you create a small water station in your yard for them to drink and rest safely at the same time by following the instructions below?

1. Find a shallow container (like a plate or saucer) to add water that can be placed outside. Clay or plastic ones are best.
2. Add a few small pebbles and a large rock or two so bees or butterflies may rest on them without getting their feet wet. You may even add sand.
3. Place the container in a sunny location near plants and flowers.
4. Make certain that any rock or material used does not contain any chemicals, as they can harm our pollinator friends.
5. Frequently change the water so it doesn't invite mosquitoes to lay their eggs.



**Local
Spotlight**

Dripping Springs Art League

Founded in 2023, the Dripping Springs Art League strives to create a community of creative individuals in the Hill Country. They host workshops, clubs, markets, public exhibits, and more. Last year they instituted the "West of Weird" studio tour, where community members can visit artist's studios and purchase art. In 2026, it is scheduled for Feb. 28 - Mar. 1. Visit artindripping.com for more info.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SUNSET CANYON LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

WHEN: Monday, January 26, 2026

WHERE: Canyon Church Fellowship
Hall- in the annex

The Annual Meeting of the SCLA
will begin at 7:00 p.m. The doors will
open at 6:30 p.m. for registration

SCHEDULED SPEAKERS:

- County Commissioner Walt Smith
- District 4 Constable David Graham
- Hays County Sheriff Anthony Hipolito
- TXDOT Area Engineer Orlando Gallegos

Our meeting will include:

- Approval of Minutes of Last Annual Meeting
- Approval of 2026 Budget
- Election of Officers
- President- Open
- Vice President- Randy Foster
- Secretary- Alan Kleymeyer
- Treasurer- Joan Thomas
- Director A- Nancy Shindler
- Director B- Sarah Wigfield
- Director C- August Arndt
- Director D- Lynn Dawson
- Director E- Tom Funnell
- Questions and Answers

The Canyon Call is your newsletter! We want to hear from you.

Email tips, stories, articles, recipes or whatever else you'd like to share to Sarah at scla.news@sunsetcanyon.org

**SUNSET CANYON LANDOWNER'S
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 588

Dripping Springs, TX 78620

www.sunsetcanyon.org

Officers:

President- Vacant

Vice President- Randy Foster

Secretary- Alan Kleymeyer

Treasurer- Joan Thomas

Board Members:

At-Large- Nancy Shindler

At-Large- Sarah Wigfield

At-Large- August Arndt

At-Large- Lynn Dawson

At-Large- Tom Funnell

For contact information and committees please visit our website at sunsetcanyon.org/board

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 PM. in the annex of the Canyon Church on the *second Monday of each month*. Any changes to the monthly meeting dates will be posted on our website- sunsetcanyon.org. All residents are welcome to attend. If you have any issue to bring before the Board, please let the Secretary know at least three working days prior to the meeting.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Letters To The Board



What can I get for my \$35 SCLA yearly membership dues?

Here are some examples of actions the SCLA has taken or continues to take to reflect our mantra - neighbors helping neighbors:

We work with local law enforcement and county officials to:

- Investigate traffic issues caused by new businesses or construction
- Get pot holes fixed and overhanging tree limbs trimmed

We organize and support several community programs:

- National Night Out
- Welcome committee that visits new residents
- Our newsletter, Canyon Call, published quarterly to keep residents informed

We work to maintain the appearance of the community by:

- Reviewing construction plans to help owners follow the Deed Restrictions
- Maintaining the landscape and lighting for the Sunset Canyon entrance signs
- Negotiating lower rates for trash collection and recycling with Waste Connections

The board remains active in representing the neighborhood with transportation and other local issues.

All of this is possible when you become a member of the Sunset Canyon Land Owner's Association and pay the yearly dues of \$35!

OPEN SCLA BOARD POSITION

The SCLA board position of President is now open. The main duties of the President are to preside over monthly Board Meetings, respond to community member questions or requests, and communicate with local officials when needed. Typically, the President spends 5-6 hours per month on his duties. If you are interested in this position, please contact the board at scla.board@sunsetcanyon.org. There will also be an open call for all SCLA members interested in serving as Board President at the annual meeting this January. Please attend and pay the membership dues if you would like to volunteer.



COMMUNITY CORNER

BEE PRESENTATION

Due to illness, the presentation, "Bee a Good Neighbor" has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 19 at 7 pm at the Canyon Church annex. The speaker, Autumn Paul, DVM, is a bee enthusiast and veterinarian. For a whimsical view of a bee's life, check out her essay below, "Bee Chill (A Bee in Winter)".

INVOICES IN THE MAIL

The 2025 invoices are in the mail to ALL landowners. With dues only \$35, every member payment

is important. If you have any questions about your dues, please feel free to email the treasurer at scla.treas@sunsetcanyon.org. The newsletter is currently available online unless you request that we continue to mail you a copy. This is highlighted in the invoice. Please check the box and return with your payment. We will continue to notify the homeowners that have provided their email address at the end of each quarter to let them know the new newsletter is available online.

OAK WILT

According to the Texas A&M Forest Service, the best time to trim oak trees is during the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter, when fungal spores are least likely to infect a tree. Always paint pruning cuts on oak trees. Any type of paint can mask the smell of a fresh wound from the beetle that can carry oak wilt spores. In our area, Live Oaks are the most frequently infected. To learn about Oak Wilt and how to prevent its spread, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/>. Learn to identify the signs below:



Healthy live oak leaves



Live oak showing symptoms of oak wilt

BEE CHILL

(A Bee in Winter)

Article contributed by Autumn Paul, DVM

She was still very fuzzy but not as fuzzy as she had been when she first came out of the chrysalis or "capped brood" in the hive frame 2 weeks earlier. The human had come in the week before and broken apart the hive leaving gaps where the wind would blow in cold. The bee was almost old enough to make the propolis from the tree resin; her sister bees would wad the stuff in their mouths then spit it and mash it into the space where the wind would blow. It would quickly harden in the cold and seal the bees away from the wind. And it was cold! The bees, all 30,000 of them, clustered close together,

vibrating their flying muscles keeping each other warm at 95 degrees. Rotating out and around the cluster, the bees would keep warm while minimizing how much energy they lost. As long as the temperature stayed below 50 degrees they stayed clustered and didn't eat much. But when the sun came out and the warmth was felt on the wooden hive, the bees would feel the heat at the entrance and light out into the sunshine... looking for nectar, looking for proteins and fat, looking for salts. It wasn't easy to find. They would eat so many things in desperation: the dust on chicken feed, the salts from a steaming pool of horse urine, even the rotting pumpkin in the field. For when the flowers were gone for months the bees had little to eat. They would even cannibalize their queen's

eggs if there was no protein to be found. But she was a special bee, along with her current sister bees, who were hatched out a few weeks after the sun's angle changed and the temperatures dropped. Instead of a few weeks, she would live a few months, able to live off the fat bodies and extra padding she'd been fed as a larvae. She crawled over her sisters to the outside of the cluster to the bottom of the frame. At the bottom of the waxed honeycomb a single cell had been chewed open and she smelled the sweet thick honey. She pointed her head up and pierced the drop with her proboscis. The heavenly taste invigorated her and she began to beat her wing muscles and dove back into the ball of her sister-bees. How many more weeks of this Texas Winter?

Festive Chocolate Bark

- Contributed by Alan Kleymeyer

Total Time: 1 1/2 hrs

Yield: 1 3/4 pounds

Ingredients

1 cup shelled pistachio nuts
(about 1/2 pound in shell)
12 ounces semisweet chocolate,
chopped
8 ounces white chocolate,
chopped
3/4 cup dried, sweetened
cranberries roughly chopped

Directions

Heat the oven to 350° and lightly toast the pistachio nuts on a baking sheet, about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Let the nuts cool.

Melt the semisweet chocolate in the top of a double boiler set over simmering water, stirring until smooth. Or microwave it, in a dry microwave-safe bowl, uncovered, on medium power for 2 to 3 minutes, stirring once. Remove the chocolate from the microwave and stir until smooth.



Melt the white chocolate separately, following the same directions.

In a small bowl, combine the nuts and cranberries, then stir half of them into the semisweet chocolate.

Using a spatula, spread the mixture about a 1/2-inch thickness on a large cookie sheet. Drop the white chocolate by tablespoonfuls over the dark. With the tip of a butter knife, swirl the chocolates together to create a marbled effect. Sprinkle on the rest of the nuts and berries.

Refrigerate the bark for about 1 hour or until firm, then break it into pieces. Store the bark in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to a month.

Native Beauties

Wisteria frutescens

Common name: Texas Wisteria

This native wisteria is less showy and aggressive than the invasive commonly grown Asian wisteria, but the blooms are deliciously fragrant and it blooms multiple times throughout the summer, beginning in late May. It has high deer resistance and medium drought tolerance.



HOT TOPIC: Prepare for winter weather

In Central Texas, we can expect freezing temperatures at some point during the winter. We can't predict the length or severity of any winter event, but it's recommended to prepare for a week without power and water in case those systems fail. Here's what you can do to prepare.

Winterize your home:

- Clean out your gutters
- Wrap pipes with cloth or pipe sleeves
- Know where your water shutoff valve is, and locate the key
- Turn off outside faucets, drain your sprinkler system, and insulate hose bibbs
- Seal up drafty windows and doors
- Get your fireplace ready- remove ash and open the flue
- Change the batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Stock up on essentials:

- Multiple flashlights and batteries
- Bottled water -a good metric is one gallon per person per day
- Nonperishable food for humans and pets
- First aid kit
- Medications and medical supplies- one weeks supply
- Portable cellphone chargers
- Back-up power supply like a generator or large batteries
- Diapers, formula and wipes

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Support YOUR Neighborhood Citizen Patrol. It's about neighbors helping the neighborhood! Marked vehicles driven by local residents are now patrolling the neighborhood. We need your help by volunteering time to patrol. Set your own patrol schedule. Training class conducted by Hays County Constables office. For information about the patrol text Mark Bennett, Captain, Sunset Canyon Citizen Patrol at 512.680.3480 and he will contact you.



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