



# LakeLife

## Edgewater Community Newsletter August 2011

### President's Corner

It's the middle of August and summer is really taking its toll. While the heat makes just about every outdoor task that much more difficult; the storms have really been the challenge this summer. We all know about the tragic tornadoes and subsequent power outage in April; but the EOA clubhouse was hit by lightening in a later storm that did extensive damage to our electrical equipment. And then the storm that rolled through last week took out a tree that damaged our sidewalk. The storm also damaged pool furniture. Each time we've had damage; it has taken the efforts of our staff and volunteers to get things repaired and back into good working order.

I bring this up in the "President's Corner" only to point out that our neighborhood does not run on "auto-pilot". Everything from the day-to-day operations to recovery after a storm requires a great deal of energy. We are fortunate to have

a very dedicated staff that manages our office and takes care of maintenance. We also have a small group of volunteers that dedicate a great deal of time and energy to maintaining and improving our neighborhood.

While we are only in August; I would like residents to start thinking about volunteering time in the community next year. While there is the board; there are many other ways and different capacities to volunteer in the community. The board could always use some "fresh faces" and new perspectives but equally important are the volunteers on the committees. The committees are where the new ideas originate and where the good ideas are implemented.

So as we swelter in the heat and look forward to Fall; I hope that some of you will also consider stepping up to help us keep our community "in good working order".

*Cameron Handyside, President*



### Edgewater Spring and Summer 2011 Yard of the Season

Congratulations to John and Theresa Holly, winners of the Yard of the Season for Spring and Summer, 2011. Their home is located at 105 Emerald Lane in the Heritage subdivision.

The Garden Club received nominations for several beautiful yards in Edgewater. Selection of the winning yard was based on criteria borrowed from the Madison Beautification Board, which considers elements such as design, variety and appropriateness of plants, neatness (mowed, edged, mulched) and the condition of walls, walks and pavement.

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## Community Calendar

Sept. 5th	Office closed
Sept. 12th	Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 1st	Fall Yard Sale
Oct. 10th	Town Hall Meeting
Oct. 14th	Board Nominations Letters to Residents
Oct. 22nd	Edgewater 5k Run
Oct. 28	Board Nominations due
Nov. 1st	LakeLife inputs due
Nov. 10th	Meet the Board Candidates
Dec. 5th	Edgewater Annual Holiday Party
Dec. 10th	Luminaries

## 2011 Board of Directors And Committee Chairs

**Cameron Handyside**  
[cthandys@knology.net](mailto:cthandys@knology.net)  
Dunhill  
President & Lake Management Chair

**Brain Goodwin, 772-7912**  
[brianandkrisgoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:brianandkrisgoodwin@gmail.com)  
Carriage Hill  
Vice-President & Community Affairs

**Sue Chatham, 461-0262**  
[chatham@knology.net](mailto:chatham@knology.net)  
Lost Tree Pointe  
Secretary

**Joe Roberts, 489-0781**  
[joeandthada@knology.net](mailto:joeandthada@knology.net)  
Lost Tree Pointe  
Treasurer

**May Hudson, 772-3438**  
[maziemail@aol.com](mailto:maziemail@aol.com)  
Heritage Woods  
Clubhouse/Recreation

**Stephen Brooks, 489-1881**  
[brkssb@gmail.com](mailto:brkssb@gmail.com)  
Lost Tree Pointe  
Covenants

**Greg Morgavi**  
[gmorgavi@knology.net](mailto:gmorgavi@knology.net)  
Carriage Hill  
Security/Community Watch

**Carl Blair**  
Heritage Woods  
Grounds Committee Chair

Office Manager:  
**Dottie Bash**

Office Address:  
**111 Edgewater Drive  
Madison, AL 35758  
461-8670**

[edgewaterowners@knology.net](mailto:edgewaterowners@knology.net)  
**Office Hours: 10AM-2:00 PM**  
After Hours: Call a Board Member

# Edgewater 5k Run

Hello Neighbors,

The EOA is proud to bring back the Edgewater 5K Run! Many of you may have participated in the last Edgewater Community 5K Run that took place a number of years ago. This year the run will be on Saturday, October 22, 2011, so mark your calendar now; you don't want to miss it.

Two events are planned: a 5K Run/Walk and a 1 Mile Fun Run. Look for the 5K path, marked around our lake perimeter. We hope for a great participation from our Edgewater community, the adjoining neighborhoods, and friends of Edgewater (Your Friends). Be on the look out for some special guests (Mayor Paul Finley and Councilman Will Culver plan to participate)!

The Edgewater 5K Run/Walk will be limited to 200 participants, so you will want to get your race registration form and payment in early to ensure getting a race number. The 5K Race packet will include an attractive Edgewater T-shirt, which you can wear proudly throughout the year. Look for the registration form on our community website at

***edgewatercommunity.com.***

The completed form can be mailed or dropped off at the EOA Office, along with a check for the entry fee of \$15. Late registration, after October 1, will be \$25. The 1 Mile Fun Run is free. All that is required is a signed race waiver.

I believe that Edgewater is a vibrant community. The Edgewater 5K Run will engage this great community in a healthy, social event that projects the community image Edgewater deserves. To make this event a success, I urge you to register early, get the word out to your friends, and volunteer to support the race planning or race day activities. There are a number of volunteer opportunities including: support for race day setup, water and refreshment station support, parking and traffic flow support, finish line data collection, and race flow management support. Be on the lookout for more information to come in future emails and on our website.

If you need additional information, please email or call the EOA Office.

Edgewater is a great community. Let's have a strong show of support for this great community event!

Thanks,

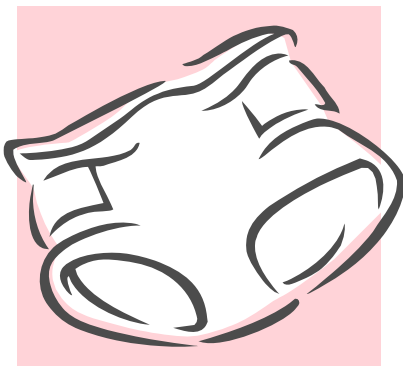
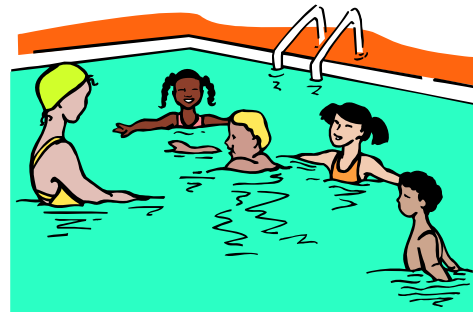
Rick Wright  
Race Coordinator

Brian Goodwin



## Edgewater Schedule for Waste Management as of July 25, 2011:

- SUNDAY:** (Evening) Madison residents place bags of grass, small limbs, etc. curbside prior to 7:00 AM Monday for pickup.
- MONDAY:** Madison residents - Small debris (i.e. bags of grass, small limbs, etc.) is scheduled to be picked up on Mondays.
- TUESDAY:** (Evening) Huntsville and Madison residents place recycle bins curbside prior to 7:00 AM Wednesday morning.
- WEDNESDAY:**
1. Recycle pickup by Huntsville and Madison. Don't forget to re-store your bins and place them out of sight!
  2. (Evening) Huntsville and Madison residents move garbage cans to curbside, by 7:00 AM Thursday.
  3. (Evening) Huntsville residents ONLY move bags of grass, limbs, large household items to curbside, by 7:00 AM Thursday.
- THURSDAY:**
1. Huntsville and Madison pick-up of garbage cans. Don't forget to re-store your garbage cans and place them out of sight!
  2. Huntsville ONLY pickup of bags of grass and other debris.
  3. Madison residents ONLY move large debris items to curbside, by 7:00 AM Friday.
- FRIDAY:** Madison ONLY pickup of large debris items.



### **Is your child still in diapers??**

Please put the appropriate swim pants on your child for the swimming pool. A regular diaper is not enough, use swim pants that are waterproof and that fit so there will be no accidents in the swimming pool or the baby pool. An accident causes the pool to be closed until it can be cleaned and sanctified. This keeps everyone from being able to enjoy for the pool for a time period. Thanks for your help!

## GROUNDS

I am your new Grounds Committee Chairman since Patti has left us for greener pastures. She will be missed.

The Grounds Committee has been busy in the three months since I have been helping. The highest priority on my first day was to get the irrigation system repaired at the front entrance. It had been out for some time and we could not plant flowers until water was available. After considerable analysis by Mike Campbell, Joe Roberts and Alabama Lawn Master, we decided to restore the main line that was disrupted in previous work. After repairing the line, it took several days to clean and adjust the heads. Final work was completed on a Monday. We planted flowers on Tuesday and were judged (and won) the Madison Beautification Award on Thursday.

Some of the volunteer projects we have been working include:

- Plants and sod at Morland Shores Entrance - completed
- Repaired Remington Place Island plants & light due to fire - completed
- Added mulch at Morland Shores and Remington Place Island - completed
- Replaced diseased roses at the West Entrance Island on Edgewater Drive - completed
- Yard of the Spring and Summer Selected by Garden Club – Our winner was John & Theresa Holly, 105 Emerald Lane, Heritage Woods
- Stone applied to Lakeshore West Entrance sign - completed
- Considerable coordination with Alabama Lawn Master for many projects
- Started a “Clean Up Tip” section of the Edgewater website. Current tip is to check your curbs, sidewalks and driveways for weeds or grass growing in the expansion joints. Dig them out and/or use a herbicide to achieve a clean curb appeal for your property.
- Planted sod on the South side of pool where shrubs were removed in the spring.

Some of the projects we have upcoming and the (status) are:

- Pergola Upgrade (this is on track for volunteers to complete in the fall)
- Upgrade other sub-division entrances with new plants (need a coordinator for this project)
- Entrance Lighting for each sub-division (need a new coordinator for this project)
- Place stone on pedestal of sub-division signs where requested and appropriate (volunteers will do these with some help when the temperatures get lower)
- Improve berm on Edgewater Drive near Steeplechase (need a coordinator for this project to get professional bids)
- Continue to improve the appearance along Edgewater Drive (need a coordinator for this project to determine additional needs)
- Clean signs at main entrance and sub-divisions (need a coordinator for this project)
- Clean mailboxes in Steeplechase (unknown how we will proceed at this time)
- Removal of trees due to recent storm and repair to sidewalk (getting bids now).

If you have a concern about the common areas, please email Dottie. She monitors the Alabama Lawn Master work and can contact them if they miss something. Don't let the problem go for months before you contact us.

The committee needs people who want to help when they can or help us develop plans and get professional bids for the projects that volunteers cannot do. We have a great group of volunteers that do a lot, but our numbers are small. If you want to be added to an email list so you are notified for projects, send your name and email to Dottie at the office. We also need people that can assess and plan a project. Volunteers are key to keeping our association fees low. Please help as you can.

Carl Blair  
772-7540

# Edgewater Community Outreach

The Edgewater Community Outreach is a group of volunteers within the Edgewater community ready and willing to lend neighbors a helping hand in time of need: new baby, illness, surgery or death in family.

Volunteers may be able to temporarily help with meal preparation, calls to check up on the elderly or home-bound; neighborly support in a family crisis, transportation to/from medical treatment or running family errands in a crisis or emergency (as volunteers are available). New volunteers are always welcome.

If you know of a neighbor that may need temporary assistance, or if you or your family can use some extra assistance, please contact Joyce Bryant at (256) 774-7817 or (256) 694-2004 or via email at [ewout-reach@bellsouth.net](mailto:ewout-reach@bellsouth.net)

## COVENANTS —AUGUST TIDINGS

ASHUR - The Board of Directors approved a revised "Blue Book" last month. The new edition of the "Architectural Standards and Homeowner Use Restrictions" (ASHUR) is effective August 1, 2011 and incorporates all amendments into one document. The "Blue Book" may be found on the new website, <http://www.edgewatercommunity.com>, under the "FOR HOMEOWNERS" section and "COVENANTS AND BY-LAWS". A printed or electronic copy may be requested from the EOA Office at the Clubhouse. *A quick-reference guide is in this newsletter.*

Independence Days in August: Bolivia, Singapore, Ecuador, Pakistan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Estonia, Uruguay, and Malaysia. Other events: Swiss National Day, International Beer Day, and National Left-Handers Day. August is National Back to School Month and National Goat Cheese Month.

Keeping independence in mind, take a look at your home as if you were going to sell it. Is it neat and well maintained? Would you buy it all over again? What would you do to improve the curb appeal? What would you do to enjoy your property, protect its value, and take pride in your community?

On the Independence of the Weed (unattributed): "One person's weed is another's wildflower." - "A weed is a plant out of place." - "...the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out easily, it is a valuable plant." -- "If they are growing where you don't want them to, they are weeds." And A. A. MILNE: "Weeds are flowers, too, once you get to know them."

Home Maintenance Days in August: We have sent out a number of notices about FENCES. Many just need some minor TLC, such as washing off the grime. Others need a new coat of paint or stain. Some need a slat replaced, others need major work. (Please file an ARC application if you plan to install a new fence or if you are going to change the color!) The weather has not been kind to our SIDEWALKS either, so take a few minutes to wash away any mud or grime. Now is a good time for us to get out and really look at our homes and plan activities for the cooler weather coming up in the fall. Shutters and gutters, chimneys, trim work, doors, mailboxes, edging the sidewalks and driveways and weeding our highways...

Feedback: Have you received a notice? Have an issue? Please contact the EOA Office at the Clubhouse. While we much prefer you drop off written comments or use e-mail, you may call Dottie Bash at 256-461-8670 during office hours, Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM. Your feedback is then sent on to the appropriate Board or Committee member (all volunteers). We typically ask for you to take care of the issue within ten days - if ten days is not enough, let the EOA Office know so we can avoid sending you additional notices.

*Stephen Brooks—Covenant's Chair*

Quick Reference Guide to EOA Standards:

<u>Blue Book</u>	<u>Standard</u>
4.1.2.5	<b>Outbuildings</b> must be approved by ARC and limited to rear privacy area or not highly visible.
4.1.2.6	<b>Fences</b> must be painted or stained and maintained in good condition. ARC approval required for new fences or new color.
4.1.2.7	<b>Exterior lighting</b> is limited to 2 post lights, low-voltage or solar ground lighting, white bulbs, aesthetically pleasing.
4.1.2.11	<b>External equipment</b>
4.1.2.11	Window AC & protruding exhaust fans are prohibited. The ARC may make exceptions.
4.1.2.11	Propane Tanks are required to be screened from front or side view from the street.
4.1.2.11	Mailboxes must be maintained as originally installed in neighborhoods.
4.2.3.4	<b>Trees</b> - fallen or dead trees and broken/dead branches must be removed within 2 weeks.
5.2.1	<b>Maintenance and Upkeep</b> is required to sustain property in a safe and attractive manner consistent with community-wide standards.
5.2.2	<b>Lawn Maintenance</b> must be performed to PRESENT A NEAT AND WELL-KEPT APPEARANCE
5.2.2.1	Edging is required for curbs, sidewalks, and driveways.
5.2.2.1	Mowing is required to present a neat and well-kept appearance.
5.2.2.1	Lawn debris, tree limbs, leaf bags, etc. must be removed promptly and stored out of front or side views from the street.
5.2.2.1-3	Weeds should be removed from lawns/gardens or lawns must be mowed to prevent unsightly appearance.
5.2.2.1	Pruning is required of trees and shrubs to remove dead wood, overgrowth, overhanging of streets or sidewalks.
5.2.2.2	Plantings (hedges, bushes, flowers, trees) shall not obstruct driver visibility or encroach on sidewalks or streets.
5.2.2.3	<b>Vacant Lots</b> shall be kept free of felled trees, weeds, and brush.
5.2.2.3	Level Lots shall be mowed entirely so grasses do not exceed eight (8) inches in height.
5.2.2.3	Uneven lots shall be cleared and the perimeter kept mowed to at least a 10-foot distance from adjacent property.
5.2.3	<b>Exterior Storage</b> exceptions must have approvals on file at the EOA Office.
5.2.3.1	Garbage cans and recycle bins may not be visible from front or side views of the property from the street; some corner lots exempt.
5.2.3.1	Lawn debris, limbs, cuttings, lawn & leaf bags may not be visible from front or side views from the street; pickup day exempt.
5.2.3.1	Pickup Day restricts GC, RB, and debris to be placed at curb night before; empty GC or RB re-stored by end of pickup day.
5.2.3.2	Service (and Athletic) Equipment must be concealed from front view of property <b>when not in use</b> .
5.2.3.2	Garden Hoses must be concealed from front-or-side views from the street.
5.2.3.2	Trampolines and sports/play equipment must have approvals at EOA Office if seen from front or side views from the street.
5.2.3.5	Basketball goals may be placed in rear of driveway; must be returned to rear driveway after use.
5.2.3.5	Landscaping materials may be kept in driveway or side yard for only one week for works in progress.
5.2.4.2	Driveways must be kept clear of clutter.

Quick Reference Guide to EOA Standards: Continued

Blue Book	Standard
5.2.4	<b>Exterior decorations</b> must be of HARMONIOUS APPEARANCE, PRIMARILY NATURAL LANDSCAPE DÉCOR.
5.2.4.1	Exterior decorations visible from the front or side views from the street are limited to four (4) ornamental or lawn and garden decorations such as benches, tables, yard flags, sculptures, bird feeders, bird baths and similar items.
5.2.4.2	Prohibited exterior decorations include artificial flowers, gazing and reflective balls or decorations.
5.2.4.3	Tops of mailboxes must be kept free of ornamentation except for originally installed lights.
5.2.4.4	US Flags are encouraged, and should be displayed properly and kept in good condition.
5.2.4.5	Holiday decorations must be removed within one week of the holiday, except end-of-year remove by mid-January.
5.2.5	<b>Exterior finishes</b> must be kept clean and be repainted as necessary. All wood exteriors must be painted or stained.
5.2.1	Homes must be kept in good repair, e.g. roofs, gutters, windows, doors, chimneys, driveways, retaining walls, etc.
5.2.5	Exterior surfaces (trim, siding, decks, shutters, etc.) shall be kept clean and re-painted as needed.
5.2.6	<b>Signs and signage</b> are prohibited, except for "For Sale", "For Rent", and one-day only "Open House", "Yard Sale".
5.2.8	<b>House Markings (NUMBERS)</b> must be on the home above or near front door. They may also be painted on curb near the mailbox and may be on the mailbox door or side of mailbox brick housing.
5.3.2	<b>Vehicle Parking</b>
5.3.2.1	Resident parking throughout the Edgewater community overnight is prohibited.
5.3.2.7	RV and all towed vehicle parking over 2 days is prohibited without a permit from the EOA Office.
5.3.2.3	It is illegal for any vehicle to block or partially block a sidewalk.
5.2.2.2	Vehicles may not obscure the view, obstruct traffic, or block the driveway or entranceway of another residence.

Covenants Committee Volunteers: Brian Goodwin, Sue Chatham, Debbie Fulmore, Gareth Bryant, Jean and Harold Pigg, Lyle Needham, May Hudson, Holly McGinness (prospective), and Steve Brooks.

**2011 ADOPT-A-MILE**

It is hoped that the residents of the area who drive Zierdt Road appreciate the efforts of EOA and the volunteers who pick up the trash every week that is thrown out of the windows of cars, trucks, and that segment of the population who have no respect for keeping our roadsides free of litter. There are laws prohibiting this transgression. Many thanks to all the volunteers.



A special thank you to Maurice & Bob Wolf for picking up in June, Elaine & Carl Blair in July and Sally & Lou Clark in August.

There still several months available in the 2011 calendar. To help with this project and get some exercise at the same time, contact Joann Gore at 256-461-8906 or jagore24@att.net. All supplies are provided.

## ***Security Report***

The electronic badge system that controls access to community facilities was damaged in one of the summer thunderstorms. It is believed that a lightning strike caused an electric surge that affected the security system. The facilities using electronic badge access that were affected by the storm are the clubhouse workout room, outdoor clubhouse bathrooms, tennis courts and pool gateways. Rather than implement physical key access to these facilities while the system is being repaired, the Edgewater Homeowners Association has elected to allow temporary open access to these facilities.

We ask that residents continue to abide by the hours of operation and code of conduct for our community facilities. We hope to have the system repaired soon and residents will be notified by email when the repairs are complete.

Greg Morgavi  
Security Committee Chair

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## ***Edgewater Tennis Camp – 2011***

Over 25 players participated in the Edgewater Tennis Camp this year. Hopefully, it will not be as hot next year. I hope the players had as much fun as the instructors. All of the instructors were surprised at how much the players improved over the 8 sessions this year. Going back to the first year, the improvement of some of the older players is truly amazing. I think that the camp has been a success because it has met all of the goals that Bill and I talked about over 3 years ago. We wanted to expose the children to tennis, provide another outlet for the children to meet, and spark an interest in some that might lead to taking lessons to develop their tennis game.

Marten Boyd won the 2011 Edgewater Tennis Camp Tournament.

I am grateful to Bob and Maurice Wolf, Judy Lindsey, Sue Chatham, Debbie Fulmore and Julian Sallas who volunteered as instructors. Julian brought his ball machine which fed the ball more consistently than the instructors. This enabled the older players to improve faster.



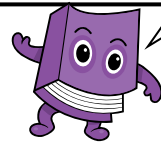
John Haskell  
Coordinator



John thanks for all of your effort in organizing a tennis camp for the Edgewater Community children !!



## Edgewater Ladies Book Club Schedule for 2011



- Aug 20 - Edgar Sawtall by David Wroblewski & The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho  
 Sept 14 - The Lost German Slave Girl by John Bailey  
 Oct 12 - The Women by T.C. Boyle  
 Nov. 9 - Half Broke Horses & The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls  
 Dec 14 - The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery & **Christmas Social**



## Community Corner



**Children's Play Group**—Call Andrea Barnes at 489-6681, [AndieKevin07@knology.net](mailto:AndieKevin07@knology.net). There is a group of children that play at least once a week

**Community Outreach**— Call Joyce Bryant at 694-2004 or 774-7817, [ewoutreach@bellsouth.net](mailto:ewoutreach@bellsouth.net).

**Fitness Classes**—Men and Women's Fitness classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday. First session is at 8:30 am and the next one is at 9:30 am. There is a fee and usually a waiting list. Call May Hudson, 772-3438 for more information and to enroll.

**Hand and Foot (Cards)**—Every Wednesday of each month at 1 PM. Call Judy Lindsey, 461-7069.

**Investment Club**—2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Clubhouse. Call Sue Chatham at 461-0262 or Joe Roberts at 489-0781.

**Mixed Doubles**—"Round Robin" tennis is played each Friday Morning and men's tennis on Tuesday mornings. Call Dave Simpson at 772-0512.

**Party Bridge**—1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Call JoAnn Gore, 461-8906 or Reba Jacobs, 461-9775

**Simple Yoga**—Monday morning at 7:30 am and Thursday evening at 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. There is a fee. Contact Linda Branum at 325-6332 or [ldbranum@aol.com](mailto:ldbranum@aol.com) for more information.

**The Ladies of Edgewater Book Club** meet on the 2nd Wed. of each month at 10:30 am in the clubhouse. The book club is open to all Edgewater ladies who enjoy reading and sharing their thoughts and insights with others. This is a casual, easy group. No pressure, No pretense...just a love of books and friendship. For more information contact Devra Long at [waltdev@knology.net](mailto:waltdev@knology.net).

**Woodworking**—2nd Tuesday of each month. Call Tom Kaeding at 461-0180, [twkaeding@yahoo.com](mailto:twkaeding@yahoo.com).

The **lending library** in the clubhouse is open whenever the office manager is in. Come check out our selection of books.



## Out IN the Yard



Or maybe Up a Tree!

***"A large shade tree may release into the atmosphere 100 gallons of water on a hot day, and its cooling effect is equal to that of five average-sized air conditioners running 24 hours constantly.*** Thomas Christopher "Waterwise Gardening"

Trees- tall, majestic, a wide variety of leaf shapes with a variety of leaf shapes and colors- provide shade on hot, sunny days and add interest to the winter landscapes with their form and interesting bark.

Edgewater has a lovely variety of mature trees which distinguishes us from many other neighborhoods but the last few difficult weather years have taken their toll on our woody friends. More dead limbs and dying trees are being seen along our streets. Compounding this situation is the severity of winds and weather we have also been experiencing resulting in more tree parts and total trees being blown down and causing damage to homes and property.

If you are evaluating your trees and wondering what is happening be sure to look down. Tree guys will tell you that when you see a limb in trouble- look down at the base of the tree for the problem. Check for encircling roots choking the tree. Contact a reliable tree person to deal with the issue if the choking root is the problem.

Please remove dead limbs that might fall onto or into something during one of our 'summer storms'. If you have a dead or dying tree, please take it down before it goes through a roof or into a street. Dead and dying trees are not good for our neighborhood if they are standing boldly along Edgewater Drive.

There are a number of other trees (e.g. Leyland Cypresses) showing the tell-tale pointy decorations identifying Bag Worm. Treatment would be with BT (Bacillus thuringiensis) a safe powder that is dangerous and deadly only to wormy kinds of critters. If you are not comfortable in seeing your shrubs denuded and dying, again, contact the tree guy of your choice but do it before the little dudes spread to the neighboring trees and shrubs. Again, more dead trees are detracting.

The crape myrtles are looking colorful and happy this year. So as the crape myrtle flowers fade and the seed pods form, please pinch them off to encourage new blooms.

Edgewater is home to a large number of nandinas- both standard and dwarf- planted in many places. These plants are lovely with a relaxed look about them- until they are cut into shapes (boxes, balls, etc) and their look is no longer natural. Nandinas- like any shrub producing a number of stalks from a single base (Forsythia is another) should never be cut into any shape but rather have one-third of its stems (the oldest, fattest ones) removed at the ground level. Yes, you might have to get down onto your knees once a year but the plant will thank you with its prettier look. Remember also- just because a shrub is called BOXWOOD doesn't mean it is to be cut into a box shape.

The number of out-of-control Eleagnus and Cherry laurels indicate healthy growing conditions for their varieties! Bear in mind that their genes tell the plants to soar to great heights- and widths. Eleagnus genetically is programmed to be **15 feet high and 20 feet wide**. To keep it 'in control' is a battle that many of us are apparently losing.

Cherry laurels, as we have along several area of sidewalks on Edgewater Drive and Spinnaker Ridge want to be **12-20 feet** high (no width need be noted- just wide) Maintenance: **Cherry laurels do not like being severely pruned and will resist being trained into an angled hedge**. And want to be wide enough to block a sidewalk. If your shrubs planted too closely to public sidewalks have gotten out of control, prune back severely please. My old litany of 'take a walk past your property the way another person would. Does it make you proud?'

Anytime a shrub is 'trimmed back' instead of cutting to where you want the shrub to be, go back at least **another 1-2 inches**- depending on shrub size and leaf size. That will give the shrub the opportunity to flush out and create a fuller, flatter surface at the level you desire within a few weeks. Cut out dead branches and limbs for the health and beauty of the shrub.

Consider removing shrubs, especially from a sunny, well drained site that are no longer loved and consider replacing with something more **sustainable** (new buzz word) like maybe blueberries. Blueberries make pretty shrubs that do not need 'shaping' and will provide you and local birds with tasty blue berries. If you are planting something, it might as well produce something edible.

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**"It is estimated that 50% of residential water use goes into maintaining landscapes in the United States. Approximately half of that amount is considered to be applied unnecessarily or wasted"** 'Xeriscape Gardening' Connie Ellifson, Tom Stephens, Doug Welsh

Just a reminder to check the operation of your irrigation system to assure it is running according to plan, that no heads are spraying the street instead of your lawn, that you are not overwatering, causing your lawns to become more susceptible to our hot temperatures. Harvey Cotton of the Huntsville Botanical Garden suggests watering lawns deeply and **irregularly** to encourage deep rooting. And not watering until lawn begins to show stress (you can see your footprints when you walk on it.) Have you changed the height of your lawn mower to 1/2-3/4 inches higher for the summertime?

Refreshing and/or adding mulch around shrubs and in flower beds will keep your plants better watered by slowing evaporation.

Make a few notes too on what plants (annuals, perennials, shrubs) are holding up well through this summer so making selections can be easier next spring. If you are like me, you are certain you will remember-NOT.

Many thanks to the residents of Edgewater who came to visit and learn more about the CASA Community Garden recently as our garden club meeting for the month of July. It is my pleasure to share the garden with anyone wanting to know more about our gardening and distribution.

Have as comfortable a summer as you can manage! Come out and join the walkers during the early morning hours!

Karen Voelker



*Pictures from Lady Ann Lake  
Provided by  
Barbara Roberts*



*Barbara, Thanks for sharing these with us!*

## Help! I'm a Garden Nerd!!!

Ever find a sprig of rosemary soaking in a water glass beside the sink, left over from a nice meal out on the town the evening before? Anyone who brings food home to root has a problem, possibly an addiction. I can just hear it now, at a twelve-step meeting.....

"Hi, my name is Felder, and I am a gardener..... ("Welcome, Felder., we're glad you are here, Come back often.")

"I gardened just this morning." ("Amen!") "Pulled a few weeds on the way down to pick up the morning papers, and before I knew it, started dividing daylilies and repainting a fence post. During carpool, I found a mail-order catalog under my car seat, and people behind me at the stoplight had to honk to get my attention back on the road.

"I need help, can't stop gardening on my own, Even though I don't play golf or own a bass boat, I am sorry for my family because I spent my last paycheck on a new green house door, a bug bucket of Miracle Grow and some shrubs I don't even need, 'cause they were on sale....."

*You might be a garden nerd if....*

Do you grow more than ten or more different kinds of the same plant (rose, daylily, daffodil, iris, camellia, African violet, camellia, tomato, whatever), and know their names? Extra points if they're labeled!

Do you keep a small shovel in the car trunk? Turn your compost weekly? Blow leaves on Sunday morning, Buy birdseed by the fifty pound sack? Own a \$40 pair of pruning shears (bonus points for a leather scabbard)? Are entire flats of flowers (or veggies) still sitting on the driveway because there's simply no more space to plant?

Have you ever willingly taken a tour of a garden by flashlight? Do we need to search your purse or camera case for purloined seeds after a visit to a botanical garden?

Extra points if your cuticles are dirty right now. And last, but not least, triple points if you would appreciate a special someone sending you a load of manure for an anniversary....

I'm not suggesting we gardeners should quit—though we all claim we can, any time. Maybe our motto should be **One Flower (or vegetable) at a time.** And remember that denial is a symptom!

Author: Felder Rushing

Author of 'Tough Plants for Southern Gardens' and other gardening books

This man has a true 'truck garden'- an actual veggie garden in the bed of his pick-up!

Submitted by Karen Voelker

*"Weed- any plant having to deal with an unhappy human" J.C. Raulston*