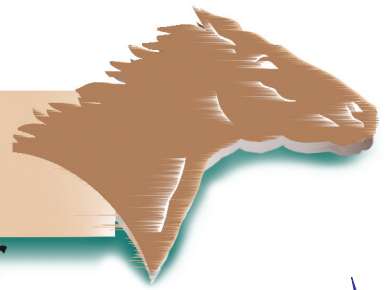


# SPIRIT *of* Las Colinas



JULY – AUGUST 2008

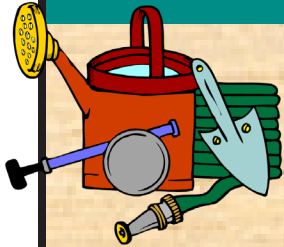
Publication of the LAS COLINAS ASSOCIATION

## ELECTRONIC UPDATE



### LCA Summer Watering Tips

Most lawns receive twice as much water as they require for a healthy appearance. The key to watering lawns is to apply the water infrequently, yet thoroughly. This creates a deep, well-rooted lawn that efficiently uses water stored in the soil. [more tips](#)



### Pest Check - Ticks and Mosquitos

#### *Hungry, Hungry Ticks Appear!*

Don't be surprised if you venture outside and find ticks crawling on your body. Ticks are in the class Arachnida, since adult ticks have eight legs. The female ticks occur in large numbers in early summer, in order to feed on blood. After engorging itself on blood, the female will drop off and lay clusters of thousands of eggs in ground litter. [more](#)

### Railroad Tie Retaining Walls Breed Problems

A retaining wall can increase the beauty of your home site as well as serve a practical purpose of supporting soil on a vertical slope. During the 1970s and 1980s it was very popular to utilize pressure treated lumber and railroad ties as retaining walls for residential, and in some cases, commercial properties. Starting in the late 1980s, modular concrete and stone materials began to replace the traditional wood materials for retaining walls. [more](#)

### Mixed Greens: Coming to Terms

We often receive questions regarding "going green." Here are a few terms that help simplify this topic:

**Going green:** Taking steps to reduce one's negative effect on the environment.

**Climate change:** When the Earth's climate is significantly altered because of natural causes or human activities.

**Carbon footprint:** A measure, in carbon dioxide units, of how much human activities affect the environment through greenhouse gas emissions.

**Greenhouse gases:** Atmospheric gases that trap heat around the Earth. Burning fossil fuels, such as gasoline or coal, is one way these gases are added to the atmosphere.

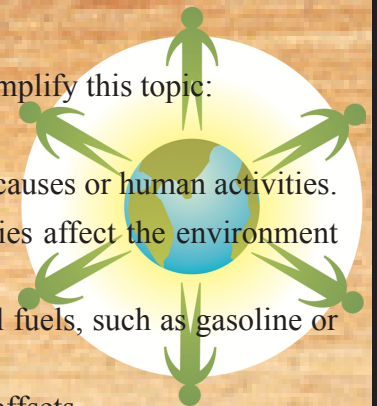
**Carbon neutral:** Having zero total carbon release, through such measures as carbon offsets.

**Carbon offsets:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to help make up for one's polluting activities. Examples include investing in renewable energy or planting trees.

**LEED:** The national Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system, which designates buildings at different levels of sustainability depending on their design, construction and operation. Sponsored by the non-profit U.S. Green Building Council.

**New Urbanism:** A neighborhood design concept that promotes pedestrian-friendly, dense developments instead of sprawl.

Sources: Various, including the websites of the U.S. Green Building Council ([www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)) and the Environmental Protection Agency.



### Upcoming at the Association:

September 24 – Multifamily Liaison Luncheon

October 6 – LCA Annual Meeting

October 14 – LCA New Member Orientation

October 24 – Title Company Forum

October 29 – Residential Realtor Forum

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