

APRIL COVE

Newsletter



April Cove Roadways

Unfortunately like the rest of 2020 our roadways in April Cove are facing some unexpected major issues!

Process

This year we called 6 paving contractors to look at our roads and provide us with bids. Two never returned our calls. One said that he would come out for over a month and then stopped returning calls. The remaining three gave us bids. Because of inconsistency's in what was promised and what was delivered, we made the decision to not use the contractor we have used of the past few years, leaving two to consider. Both have 5-star ratings on the various rating services. One does all the work for the Wilderness; both do a lot of work for the County. Our choice was to go with Professional Asphalt Paving out of Corsicana and they should start work in a week or two depending on the weather.

Change of Focus

The main road in our subdivision is April Cove. To avoid confusion I will refer to it as April Cove Road. We expected that the work we had done over the past few years on April Cove Road would allow not to have to do anything to it this year. The plan was to concentrate the road budget to other roads in the subdivision, primarily Tall Oaks. Unfortunately, April Cove Road has self destructed this year, it needs attention, fixing it will consume our entire 2020 road budget.

What are the issues?

What we observed in many areas around the Cove and in particular, April Cove Road was that the roadway moves up and down vertically when vehicles drive over it. The bigger the vehicle the more the movement. In the past, it was suggested that we use Tac (tar based binder) to adhere the patches and overlays to the old base. Unfortunately, the vertical movement of the roadway is indicative of a problem with the road base and no matter how much Tac or how thick the asphalt is, if the road is moving every time a car goes over it, the asphalt will come apart. In the picture you can see that dirt is coming to the surface as the asphalt breaks up, this should not happen if the road base is good. Putting in a new road base will halt the vertical movement of the road.

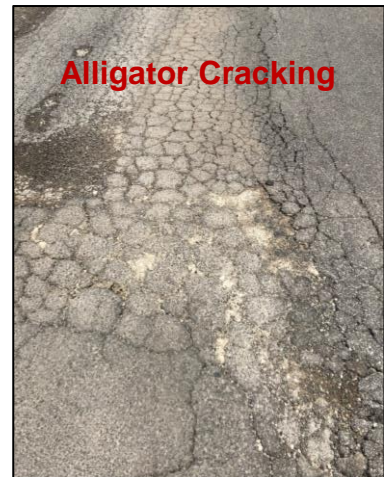


Included in this newsletter (page 3) is a reprint of the Roadway Plan from the January 2020 Newsletter as reference.



Thickness

In some areas that were overlaid in the past two years the overlay has come up revealing that the asphalt was in many cases only $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick. In that past the contractor that we used was good about getting at least an inch or more of asphalt put down when doing an overlay. This seems to have changed in the last couple of years and is why we are going with another contractor.



Cracking

There two types of cracks that form in asphalt, linear and alligator pattern cracks. Alligator cracks are a sign of the road base being bad and needs to be replaced. Linear cracks will form from usage, heating and cooling. Linear cracks need to be filled with "Hot rubber" (recycled rubber and tar mixture) to prevent water from seeping into the roadway and heaving up the asphalt.

Heavy Equipment

Unfortunately to add to the perfect storm assault on our roads the electric company came into April Cove this spring to replace telephone poles and trim trees using some big trucks. This likely exposed the underlying problems with April Cove Road earlier that normal.

Best Practices Going Forward

- 1) Whenever we observe evidence of the road base being bad the solution is to mill up the existing road down to a depth of 8 inches. Replace the first 6 inches with a combination of soil, milled asphalt, and Portland cement covered by 2 full inches of asphalt. This is more expensive than overlaying but should last much longer and will stop vertical movement.
- 2) If the road base is good and an overlay is called for then Tac will be used to bind the new asphalt to the old.
- 3) Starting next year linear cracks will be filled with "Hot rubber" as part of our yearly maintenance.
- 4) Continue Seal coating and consider Chipsealing roads that are in good shape to preserve them.

Note:

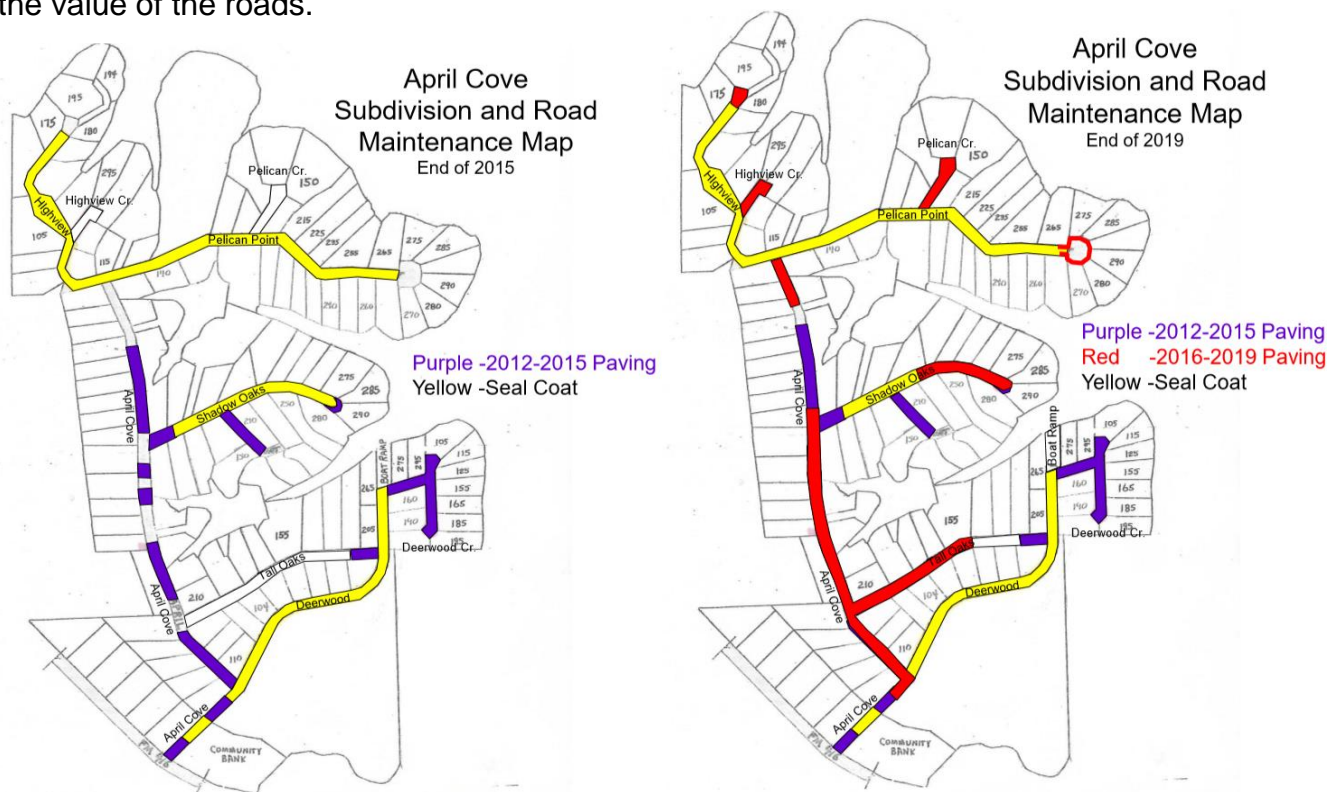
Highview Circle was seal coated this year using private funds from a resident of April Cove. No monies from the ACMF road budget were used for this project.



April Cove Roadways (From the January 2020 Newsletter)

Our roads are April Cove's most valuable asset. We have 8 Cul-de-sacs, a boat ramp, 11 intersections and approximately 18,500 ft of roadway that averages 18 ft in width. The cost of overlay paving is \$1.50 per sq. ft, mill out existing asphalt and pave is \$2.50 per sq. ft. Sealcoat is \$0.15 sq. ft.

If we were to completely redo our roadways it would cost \$832,500 (18,500 ft x 18 ft x \$2.50). If you add in the cul-de-sacs and boat ramp that number is very close to \$1 million. We spend between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year maintaining our roads. That seems like a big number, and it is, but when you compare it to the value of the roads its less than 5% of the value of the roads.



Projects over the past 5 years

PAVED / REPAIRED:

Deerwood Circle, Boat Ramp, Entrance Road, April Cove, Highview Circle, Pelican Circle

PARTIALLY COMPLETED / IN PROGRESS:

Shadow Oak, Shadow Court, Tall Oaks, Highview, Pelican Point

SEALCOAT / CRACK REPAIR

Deerwood (2X), Pelican Point (2X), Crack Repair -Various Locations (continues 2020)



Housekeeping

Road Fees

Now that we told you all about the roads and what we plan to do....

Just a reminder that **road fees are due July 1st**. Invoices are sent out as a courtesy however failure to receive an invoice does not release you from your obligation to pay your dues on time. Road fees are \$200 for the first lot and \$50 per lot for any additional lots owned.

Thank you!

Storage Lot Weed Eating

Just a reminder if you have a trailer in the storage lot please periodically weed eat around your trailer!

In the past we have waited for workdays to mow and weed eat the storage lot. Unfortunately, that becomes a big job. We have tried to keep the weeds/ grass under control with Roundup, but with all the things coming out about the potential dangers of using Roundup we are discontinuing that practice in favor of mowing and weed eating around the trailers and RV's on a regular basis.

We do need volunteers to help keep the grass under control under the trailers that do not seem to have owners. If you can help contact me, Scott King, geowzrd@aol.com. By myself I was able to do all the weed eating in about 3 hours. If we can get a few of us on this it will be done in no time.

Post Office Box

As of this summer we have a post office box in April Cove. The address is;

**113 April Cove Streetman,
TX 75859**

All dues and general mail should be sent to this address.



Front Gate Remote Control Fobs

Remote Controls can be purchased from Susan Barkley our Webmaster, (susanjanebarkley@gmail.com) for \$25.00 per remote device.

Burn Ban

There is currently no burn ban in Freestone County as of June 8th 2020

Goodwill Committee

The committee greets new people into the AC community, provides meals to help those within our AC community who are ill or injured, hosts an annual Memorial Day gathering and anything that promotes the general good of our community. Contact Wanda Rollins if you are interested in helping. (903) 599-3603

April Cove Website

www.aprilcove.org

Facebook

April Cove at Richland Chambers Lake



This was originally in the Fall 2017 Newsletter and there has not been much news about the mussels, but summer is here and if you use your boat in multiple lakes don't forget the wash it thoroughly!

Zebra Mussels Discovered in Richland Chambers Reservoir

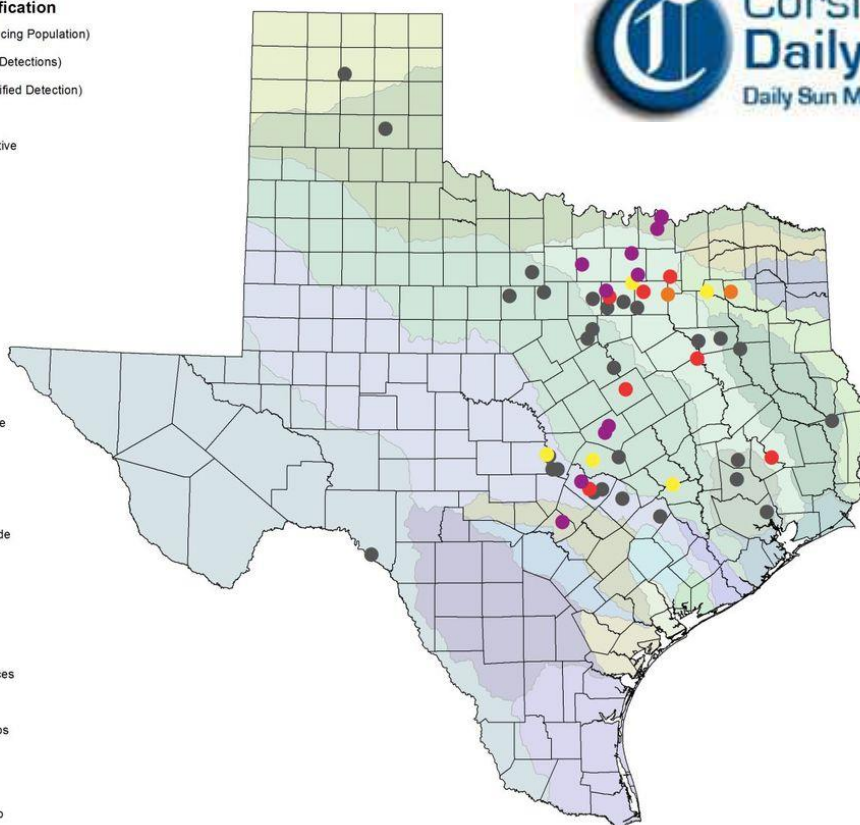
Zebra Mussel Status - Oct 2017

Water Body Classification

- Infested (Reproducing Population)
- Positive (Multiple Detections)
- Suspect (One Verified Detection)
- Inconclusive
- Undetected/Negative

River Basin

- Brazos
- Brazos-Colorado
- Canadian
- Colorado
- Colorado-Lavaca
- Cypress
- Guadalupe
- Lavaca
- Lavaca-Guadalupe
- Neches
- Neches-Trinity
- Nueces
- Nueces-Rio Grande
- Red
- Rio Grande
- Sabine
- San Antonio
- San Antonio-Nueces
- San Jacinto
- San Jacinto-Brazos
- Sulphur
- Trinity
- Trinity-San Jacinto



Infested Lakes (11): Belton, Bridgeport, Canyon, Dean Gilbert, Eagle Mountain, Lewisville, Randall, Ray Roberts, Stillhouse Hollow, Texoma, Travis
Positive Lakes (7): Austin, Fishing Hole, Lavon, Livingston, Richland Chambers, Waco, Worth
Suspect Lakes (2): Fork, Ray Hubbard

Invasive zebra mussels have been positively identified in Richland Chambers Reservoir, one of the state's largest inland reservoirs. TPWD fisheries biologists confirmed the presence of six adult zebra mussels in the reservoir Oct. 18 after receiving an identification report from a couple of young anglers fishing near the dam.

The young anglers identified the zebra mussels based on a warning poster they had seen advising boaters to clean, drain and dry.

"At this time it appears to be a pretty low density of zebra mussels and all of the specimens were of similar size, so at this time we cannot say there is a reproducing population in Richland Chambers Reservoir," said Brian Van Zee, Inland Fisheries Regional Director.

"That is why the lake is classified as positive rather than infested, but we do plan to continue to monitor for reproduction."



Richland Chambers Reservoir is a 44,000-acre impoundment controlled by the Tarrant Regional Water District, located less than 100 miles from Dallas, Waco and Tyler. It is the newest of several water bodies already found positive for zebra mussels in the Trinity River Basin, to include Lake Livingston, Lake Worth, Lavon Lake and Fishing Hole Lake. The Trinity River Basin also includes several zebra mussel-infested water bodies – meaning they have established, reproducing populations – including Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, Ray Roberts Lake and Lake Lewisville – and the rivers below these lakes (or portions thereof) are considered positive.

The rapidly reproducing zebra mussels, originally from Eurasia, can have serious economic, recreational and environmental impacts on Texas reservoirs and rivers. Zebra mussels can cover shoreline rocks and litter beaches with sharp shells, clog water intakes, damage or increase maintenance on hydroelectric and other facilities using raw surface water, and damage boats and motors left in infested waters.

Although biologists do not yet know the full extent of the zebra mussel population in Richland Chambers Reservoir, District Fisheries Biologist Richard Ott said boaters need to be diligent in cleaning, draining and drying their equipment every time they leave the water.

“The problem with zebra mussels is that the larvae are microscopic, and that’s what makes it so important that people go through the clean, drain and dry process,” Ott said. “You can’t know for sure if you are carrying zebra mussels, so you need to proceed with an abundance of caution any time you are boating on positive or infested lakes.”

In Texas, it is unlawful to possess or transport zebra mussels, dead or alive. Boaters are required to drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water in order to prevent the transfer of zebra mussels. Zebra mussel larvae are microscopic and both adults and larvae can survive for days in or on boats transported from a lake, especially during cooler fall months. The requirement to drain applies to all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not: personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/canoes or any other vessel used on public waters.

TPWD fisheries biologists will continue to work with the Tarrant Regional Water District to monitor for zebra mussel reproduction and establish signage to notify boaters of the new infestation at Richland Chambers Reservoir.

More information about zebra mussels can be found online at tpwd.texas.gov/ZebraMussels.