

**ARLINGTON
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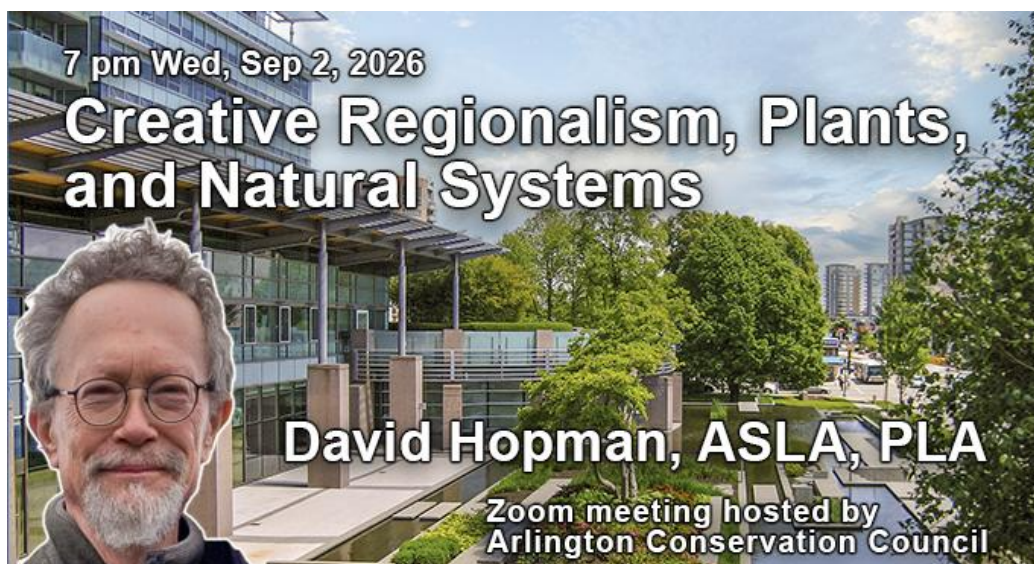
POST OAK

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 8

SEPTEMBER 2026

SWITCHGRASS AT VETERANS PARK POND • MARIAN HILER PHOTO

September Zoom Meeting



See more on page 6

Did you miss this fine talk?

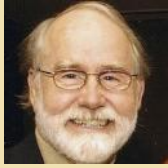
Watch it any time on our YouTube channel

[Click here](#)

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From the President Dick Schoech



How climate change can interrupt your life

The fire burned everything, then it was so hot that it plasticized the soil, creating a smooth, hard, impermeable surface in much of the fire zone

Former ACC members Wayne and Candy Halliburton moved from Arlington to Pueblo, Colo., on Oct. 27, 2022. Fires this summer around Pueblo and nearby Beulah have shown the Halliburtons and their neighbors how quickly climate change can devastate our peaceful lives. The Colorado fires challenge our “it could never happen here” attitude as the Texas Ross Fire tears through 90,000 acres and sears a deadly path — around 160 structures destroyed — near Palo Pinto Mountain State Park, 80 miles from Arlington. Wayne and Candy report (summer 2026).

The town of Beulah, where Candy displays her art and where we often hike, is in danger of being destroyed. Our favorite mountain towns and hikes have all been evacuated. Beulah residents, with help from people here in Pueblo and some smaller towns, have spent days laying sandbags around homes and historic places.

Wayne volunteered the first few weeks of the fire, working half a dozen shifts packing sandbags and helping evacuees at recovery centers get clothes, food, laundry supplies and all sorts of stuff. Oh yes, and definitely pet supplies. The state fair took in horses, sheep, chickens, and whatever else people brought. Horses were a big thing. Candy has been donating money and buying other things to contribute at Walmart.

Even though the California fires in particular have been horrendous, we never considered how horrible wildfires are, the needs of people, and the difficulties trying to get their lives back. It is a lot of work. We have fire updates daily. This has been the worst fire by far this year, but there are a dozen others. The hundreds of firemen, particularly the ones who initially came from Alaska and took over operations, are our heroes.

continued on page 4



ACC POST OAK

Our mission: ACC works to protect Arlington’s natural environment through education, community service, and advocacy for a sustainable future

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From the President *continued from page 3*

We talk about people and their losses, but we really feel terrible for the wildlife that no longer have homes. Bears are showing up everywhere. We weren't here during the Marshall fire some years ago, and that was even worse than this one.

One hundred-degree days and no rain, but now the monsoons are pounding this little town we go to, Beulah, which is where the burn scar is. Water that looks like liquid ash comes pouring down the streets.

We know people who lost everything. A place Wayne liked to hike, Pueblo Mountain Park, burned to the ground. Lake Isabel and the surrounding area where we'd go in kinder times is still closed because the fire is not contained after five weeks. Gas in Colorado right now is maybe the highest in the nation. It has been a terrible summer.

Although Beulah is still flooding, the county and the U.S. Forest Service just recently reopened Lake Isabel (where we picnicked at 9,000 feet). The lake and picnic area seem to be okay, but after two months the fire is still only 80% contained. The mountains behind the lake are not accessible to the firefighters so they have just been letting everything burn.

We're driving up to Lake Isabel today. We're not wasting any time because kids are in school and people probably haven't discovered that the authorities have reopened the road, lake, and campground. We can't wait.



Above, Wayne distributing sandbags. Right, a view of the Aspen Acres fire described here, which burned over 90,000 acres.



Jan Miller recognized

Our Parks Department recognized longtime super-volunteer Jan Miller last month, but whatever they said about her couldn't have been enough, and one month doesn't begin to cover her efforts. Thanks, Jan.



JAN MILLER



ARLINGTON
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH
AUGUST 2026

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September Zoom Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 2

Creative Regionalism, Plants, and Natural Systems

David Hopman, ASLA, PLA

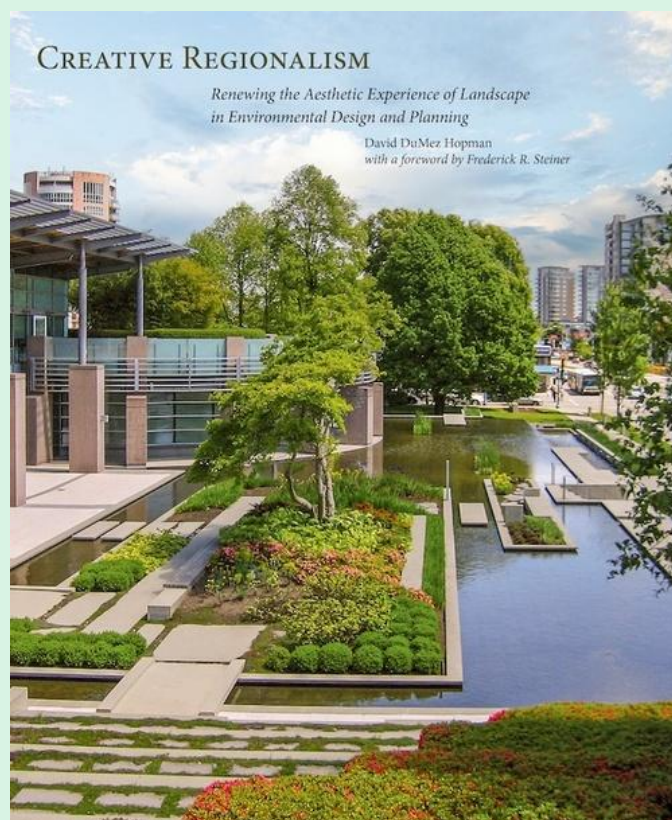
History consists of successive excursions from a single starting point, to which man returns again and again to organize yet another search for a durable scale of values.

Aldo Leopold

David Hopman, ASLA, PLA, has pursued a long career as a landscape architect and educator. In both professions, he continually looks for and transmits an ideology that promotes thriving for humans, non-humans, and natural systems. This search culminated in an award-winning book published in 2025: *Creative Regionalism: Renewing the Aesthetic Experience of Landscape in Environmental Design and Planning*, with a Foreword by Frederick R. Steiner.

David will briefly cover some of the book's main themes. A regionalism that is creative, cosmopolitan, and critical will be defined and explained, with numerous examples and a special emphasis on native plants. He will explore environmental psychology, cultural values, personal growth and creativity, and learning from the poetics of natural systems, all in the context of how people experience landscapes.

This discussion will expand attendees' understanding of both their landscape experiences and design tendencies.



Positivity John Dycus and John Darling

Here is more positive environmental news, thanks again to John Dycus. Like me, he sees way too many negative developments, but he finds answers, as you see on this page. Try it! See something positive you like? Send [me](#) a link to something good. Just try to spot new things so we don't repeat ourselves.



This one's not pretty, but it's so good, so clear, and so understandable. A retired oil executive [plugs orphan gas wells](#) that are leaking significant quantities of pollutants, especially methane. He and his foundation have stopped 5 million metric tons of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere.



How about a wind-powered green ammonia plant that makes a vital ingredient for fertilizer, reducing emissions and cutting the need for fragile supply lines by operating in farm country, right where the products are needed. Cutting supply lines also cuts emissions. Lots of details [here](#). This looks good.



Here's the headline: [Trees and greenery](#) can cool cities by as much as 18°C, but only if they're the right type. So it's good news if we use layers of plants tailored to local situations.



White-rumped vulture numbers have dropped by 99.9% in northern India in about 10 years. Sounds like another miserable story, but [look here](#) for the big story behind a great success.

Our YouTube Videos Marian Hiler

Take a look at any of our programs since October 2023 on [ACC's YouTube channel](#).



[Creative Regionalism, Plants, and Natural Systems](#)

David Hopman, September 2026



[Endangered Beauty on the Wing](#)

Carol Clark
June 2026



[Seeing Wild Texas, One state park at a time](#)

Suzanne Tuttle
May 2026



[Coyote Coexistence: Living in Harmony with America's Song Dog](#)

Karin and Roberto Saucedo, April 2026



[Beyond Parks – Update on the redesigned department](#)

Gary Packan, March 2026



[Horned Lizards and Horny Toads](#)

Michael Smith
February 2026



[2025 Environmental Progress; Planning for 2026](#)

January 2026



[The Wonderful World of Bats](#)

Hester Schwarzer and Ellen Ravkind
November 2025



[Spiders in the Garden](#)

Meghan Cassidy
October 2025



[Soils for Wildlife](#)

Sam Kieschnick
September 2025



[Where Are Reptiles and Amphibians Going ... and Who Is Helping?](#)

Michael Smith, August 2025



[EV Myths and FUDs \(Fears, Uncertainties, Doubts\)](#)

Eric Pratt, June 2025



[Why we should care: Covering the environment at FW Report](#)

Nicole Lopez, John Geer, May 2025



[Exploring Water in All Its Wonder](#)

Bill Gase and Traci Peterson
August 2026



[Symbiosis in Your Backyard: Insects, Trees and the Link Between Them](#)

Kimberlee Peterson, March 2025



[Prairie Seekers Training: Learning in Nature's Classroom](#)

Kate Morgan, February 2025



[2024 Environmental Progress; Planning for 2025](#)

January 2025



[What I learned in South Africa: climate adaptations for Texas plants](#)

Laura Miller, November 2024



[Looking Forward: The Next Legislative Session](#)

Rita Beving, October 2024



[Solar Hybrid Pumping Solution](#)

Larry Bentley
September 2024



[Native Plants Are for the Birds](#)

Charley Amos
August 2024



[Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation](#)

Ian Bryant, June 2024



[The Benefits of Native Plants](#)

Ann Knudsen
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[Perspective on the 88th Texas Legislative Session](#)

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[Prairie Restoration in the Built Environment](#)

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March 2024



[Trees as Habitat for Wildlife](#)

Hester Schwarzer
February 2024

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

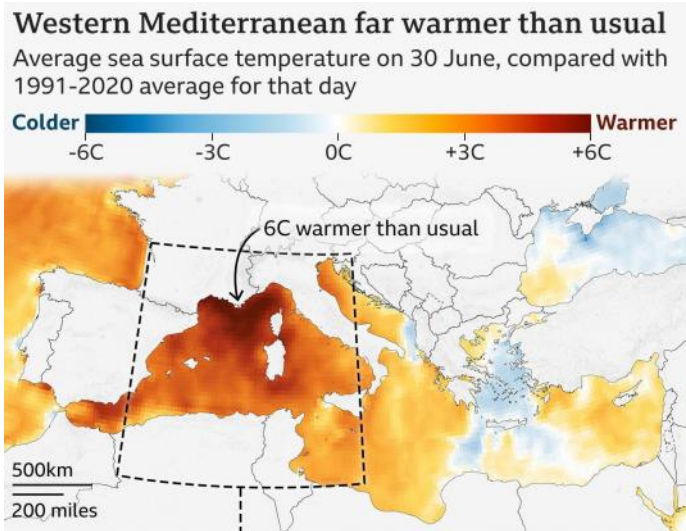


Last month we read about covering urban parking lots with solar panels and this month we go rural, exploring the possibilities of **agrivoltaic (AV) technology**. China is rapidly expanding agrivoltaic farms, where solar panels are installed above farmland to generate clean electricity while allowing crops, livestock, or other agricultural activities to continue beneath them. This dual-use approach helps produce renewable energy without taking productive land out of farming.

By the end of 2022, China had 1,678 AV projects with a combined installed capacity of 134.55 gigawatts (GW). The country's first commercial agrivoltaic project began in 2010, and the sector has expanded rapidly, making China one of the world's largest adopters of this technology. The most common systems combine solar power with crop farming, fisheries, and greenhouses, while many newer projects also integrate livestock grazing beneath elevated solar panels. On grazing sites, cattle and other livestock feed under the raised solar arrays, where the panels provide shade that can reduce heat stress during hot weather. At the same time, the animals naturally control grass and weeds beneath the panels, lowering vegetation management and maintenance costs for solar farm operators.

Researchers say agrivoltaics can significantly improve land-use efficiency by producing clean electricity and supporting agriculture on the same land. As

countries seek to expand renewable energy while protecting farmland and food production, this dual-use model is gaining increasing attention as a practical solution for sustainable development. [Nature.com, *Sci Data* 13, 116 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-025-06305-w>]



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reports that Mediterranean surface waters have warmed by approximately 1.4°C since pre-industrial times, and could rise by another 2°C by 2100 if emissions remain high. On top of warming, there is acidification. Scientists say **climate change**, caused mainly by burning oil, coal, and gas, **is making the Mediterranean Sea hotter**, bringing hundreds of invasive fish species that decimate indigenous populations. As biodiversity diminishes, coastal communities will struggle to make ends meet in the ways they've known for generations. "The Mediterranean of our grandfathers, of our elders, and of ancient Greece is lost forever. So many of those changes are irreversible," said marine biologist Ernesto Azzuro, with the Institute for Marine Biological Resources and Biotechnology. [Boston Herald, 7/30/26]

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In Case continued from page 9



Just past Old Celina Park, near the city's quaint downtown square, residents and visitors are greeted by a sign displaying Celina's outdoor watering schedule. Organized by address, it tells homeowners which days they may water their lawns — a reminder that in a city growing this quickly, water is a precious resource. [This editor would argue that water is a precious resource everywhere.] Roughly half of Celina's peak-season water demand comes from outdoor irrigation, according to city officials. Celina gets its water from the Upper Trinity Regional Water District, which also serves 29 other communities in North Texas. As Celina's population swells, it will keep guzzling water — and Celina is only about 20% built out. While waiting for the onslaught of population and building growth, city officials are considering updating city ordinances to conserve water. In June, the city council voted to eliminate grass in roadway medians in favor of drought-tolerant plants. And in July, the council met to discuss allowing builders to use more xeriscaping for commercial, multifamily, and single-family developments (Celina currently allows only 30% of residential landscaping to be xeriscaped). The votes are still out, but the wind is blowing in the right direction. [DMN op-ed, 7/31/26]



Great news! And yes, it takes a village: An old-growth bottomland forest in Lake Jackson has been permanently protected and added to the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)'s San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. The Nature Conservancy partnered with Mike Lange of North American Conservation Partners and many supporters to complete the acquisition: 391 acres protected. A longtime conservation goal realized. The property adds to more than 46,000 protected acres in the **Columbia Bottomlands**, an ecologically rich landscape of bottomland hardwood forests. The area contains coastal live oak forests and wetland habitats used by many wildlife species. The Columbia Bottomlands is also an important fallout area for migratory songbirds crossing the Gulf.

Funding was provided through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and private foundations and organizations including the Knobloch Family Foundation, [Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation](#), [Houston Audubon](#), [Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges](#), [Cradle of Texas Conservancy](#), [Gulf Coast Bird Observatory](#), and generous individual donors. We are proud to be part of this conservation success that demonstrates the power of public-private partnership, said David Bezanson. [The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Facebook 8/4/26]

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In Case continued from page 10



Bison poop = plant protein. For centuries, vast bison migrations shaped ecosystems across North America. Scientists tracked thousands of free-roaming bison in Yellowstone and discovered that their movement is transforming the land. Bison in Yellowstone are not just grazers — they are key players in shaping the park’s plant communities and nutrient cycles. The herds migrate across vast areas, grazing intensely before moving on and allowing the plants behind them to recover. Researchers found that this repeated movement stimulated soil microbes, accelerated the cycling of nutrients and encouraged fresh, protein-rich grass to regrow. In some habitats, the bison created more than twice as much available plant protein during peak season. Across the wider landscape, the estimated amount of available plant protein rose from roughly 3.45 million kilograms to 6.67 million kilograms. Despite consuming enormous amounts of vegetation, the herds did not destroy the grasslands; instead, the plants regrew, soil health remained stable and plant diversity increased. (Same thing happened when wolves were reintroduced to the park. After they became established the whole river ecosystem responded by going back to the way it was before settlers arrived and wiped out the wolves.) [nps.gov, 5/4/26]

The Center for Biological Diversity and allies **just sued the Trump administration** over its greenlighting of a private company’s plan to resurrect a defunct oil and gas pipeline to transport and sell groundwater out of California’s already-parched Mojave Desert. Operating the pipeline, which crosses Mojave Trails National Monument and other protected federal land, would dry up freshwater springs that desert plants and animals desperately need. “Desert creatures like tortoises and bighorn sheep won’t survive if key springs and seeps they need are lost. That’s why we’re determined to keep fighting this ill-conceived project,” said the Center’s Lisa Belenky. [biologicaldiversity.org, 8/6/26]

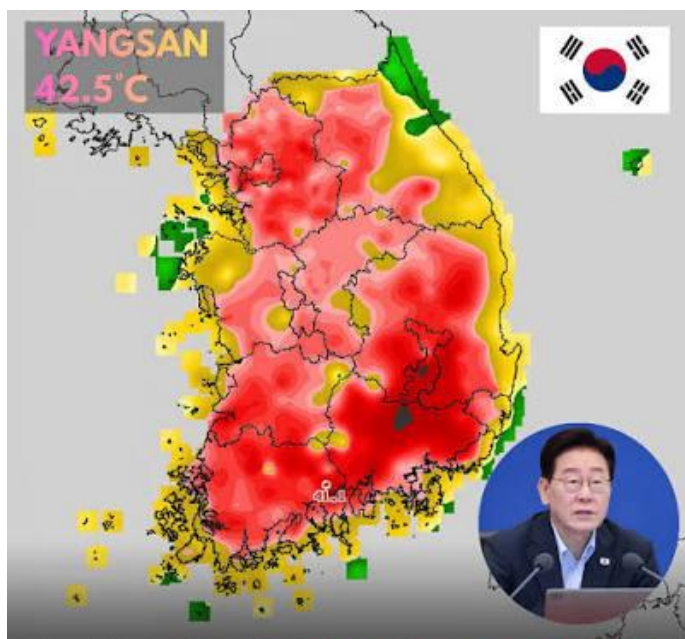


Parasite update: The state of Texas has reported more than 60 additional cases of cyclosporiasis in the past week, bringing the total of confirmed cases to 188 through July 27, with an additional 10 probable cases. Cyclosporiasis is an illness you get from the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. It causes watery, and sometimes explosive, diarrhea and other stomach problems. It usually spreads through the fecal-oral route from contaminated water (drinking untreated water or accidentally swallowing water from swimming pools, hot tubs or lakes; the parasite can survive chlorinated pool water for a long time) or food (fresh produce fertilized or washed with poop-laden water). Fruits and veggies tied to cyclosporiasis outbreaks in the U.S. include basil, bagged

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In Case continued from page 11

salads and salad mixes, cilantro, lettuce, parsley, raspberries, snow peas, and sweet peas. Treatment typically includes antibiotics. [DMN, 8/6/26; my.clevelandclinic.org]



In most of South Korea, a major heat wave advisory was in place this week as temperatures in densely populated greater Seoul, home to 20 million people, soared as high as 102.2 degrees Fahrenheit. Since mid-May, about 2,220 people have been diagnosed with heat-related illnesses and 19 have died, and on Sunday the southeastern city of Yangsan saw temperatures reaching 42.5 degrees Celsius (108.5 Fahrenheit), the highest figure recorded since weather observations began in Korea in 1904. In addition, about 17,140 livestock, such as chickens, ducks, and pigs, and about 160,000 farmed fishes have also died. The president has called the ongoing heat wave “a national disaster” and has urged all-out efforts to protect lives. A high-ranking hospital official in Pyongyang recommends people should eat dog meat (“dangogi” or sweet meat) and fish porridge to supplement protein to beat the heat, as well as watermelons, cucumbers, tomatoes, mung beans, and ginger to cool down. [Associated Press, DMN, 8/6/26]



Across Texas, the percentage of students meeting grade-level expectations (GLE) on the STAAR science exam increased this year over last, but in Dallas the news is not so good: About 42% of eighth graders met GLE while just under 30% of fifth graders met the standard. And smaller school districts like Desoto ISD and Duncanville ISD are struggling even more: In DeSoto, just 37% of eighth-graders and 15% of fifth-graders met GLE, while Duncanville reports 39% and 19% in similar comparison. The spring 2026 science exam for eighth graders had 30 questions covering topics like the water cycle, cell structure, Newton’s law of motion, balancing chemical equations, ecosystem composition, plate tectonics, and the solar system — big ideas, yes, how mass is conserved during chemical reactions, that evolution occurs over generations, and how energy cycles in ecosystems. These are concepts foundational for students to understand the world around them, and more work and reform are needed all over Texas to ensure our kids don’t fall farther behind in years to come. [OpEd, DMN, 8/6/26]

Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



Dark skies, phooey!

You get an old house in a tiny New Mexico town and at last you see a bazillion stars.

Then the town installs a light on its municipal garage.

There goes the intergalactic neighborhood.

**Visit ACC's
Facebook page
and
Discussion Group**

Compost 101? Nope.



At the landfill, a semi unloads tons of produce. Then a loader scoops it up and dumps it on that huge pile where it mostly rolls down and dries up. That's not composting; you're just adding to the waste. Shame on you, Living Earth.



Frostweed.

New Name, Big Mission



Read it here in the latest [Green Source Texas](#) news: The North Texas Renewable Energy Group has changed its name in hopes of reaching a larger audience. Now it's the North Texas Clean Energy Group ([NTXCEG](#)) with a wider view and advocacy for electrification.

**Join us and act locally.
Use the application form
on the back page.**



Question Corner Professor J. Lewis Corner

Q: Let's say I retired way too soon and now I wander my ragged neighborhood feeling superior as the only environmental guy around. My easiest target is trash day, when all the recycling bins are overflowing with junk. The worst so far: Renters left suddenly and the landlord stuffed their recycling bin with trash. After the trucks passed, that bin was empty. Which truck got that bin? Will my perfect recyclables be mixed with their trash? Will that whole truckload be tagged as contaminated and sent to the landfill? And the biggest question: Why do we make something so easy into an impossible thing? Say something!

A: Did you think we weren't doomed? Calm down, you old fool, get yourself to Walmart, and ask if you can be a greeter. Next!



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Mealy blue sage.

My Nature Notebook

Traveling junk

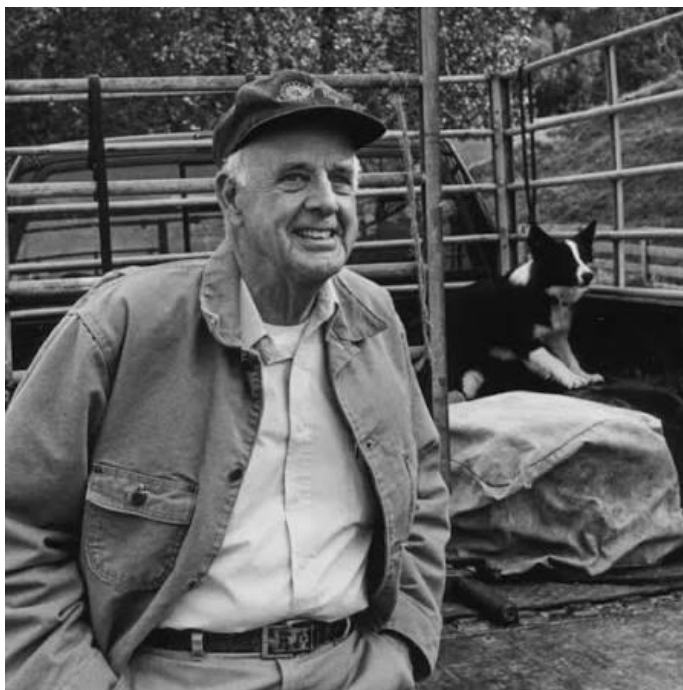
Brainiac almost got excited yesterday when we were sneaking around in the creepy Old Guy's back yard and we found a tiny bit of dead flowers and stuff that was moving. Well, sort of inching along anyway. Just then the COG caught us and after all his you kids get out of my yard stuff he said hey that looks like a southern emerald moth larva! Look how it's disguised so birds can't



see it. And some things that smell their food can't find it either! And Brainiac couldn't stop himself of course and he said don't you mean this is a variable twig mimic that uses decorative crypsis by attaching plant material to itself with special hooks and silk. Can we go now? I think cartoons are starting.

Remembering Wendell Berry 1934 - 2026

Wendell Berry has left us after 92 years of wisdom and humility and, maybe most of all, living thoughtfully as a Kentucky farmer. There's a lot to read by and about this remarkable man just now. [Consider these words](#); they come with a photo from a much different time.



"When despair for the world grows in me, and I wake in the night at the least sound, in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds."

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility."

"We learn from our gardens to deal with the most urgent question of the time: How much is enough?"

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

"The real work of planet-saving will be small, humble, and humbling..."

(Why Wendell Berry didn't worry about the future)
"His life as a writer and farmer was informed by a simple, clarifying idea: Forget tomorrow, and work toward what is good today." Joe Fassler in *The Atlantic*, Sept 6, 2026.



Join ACC

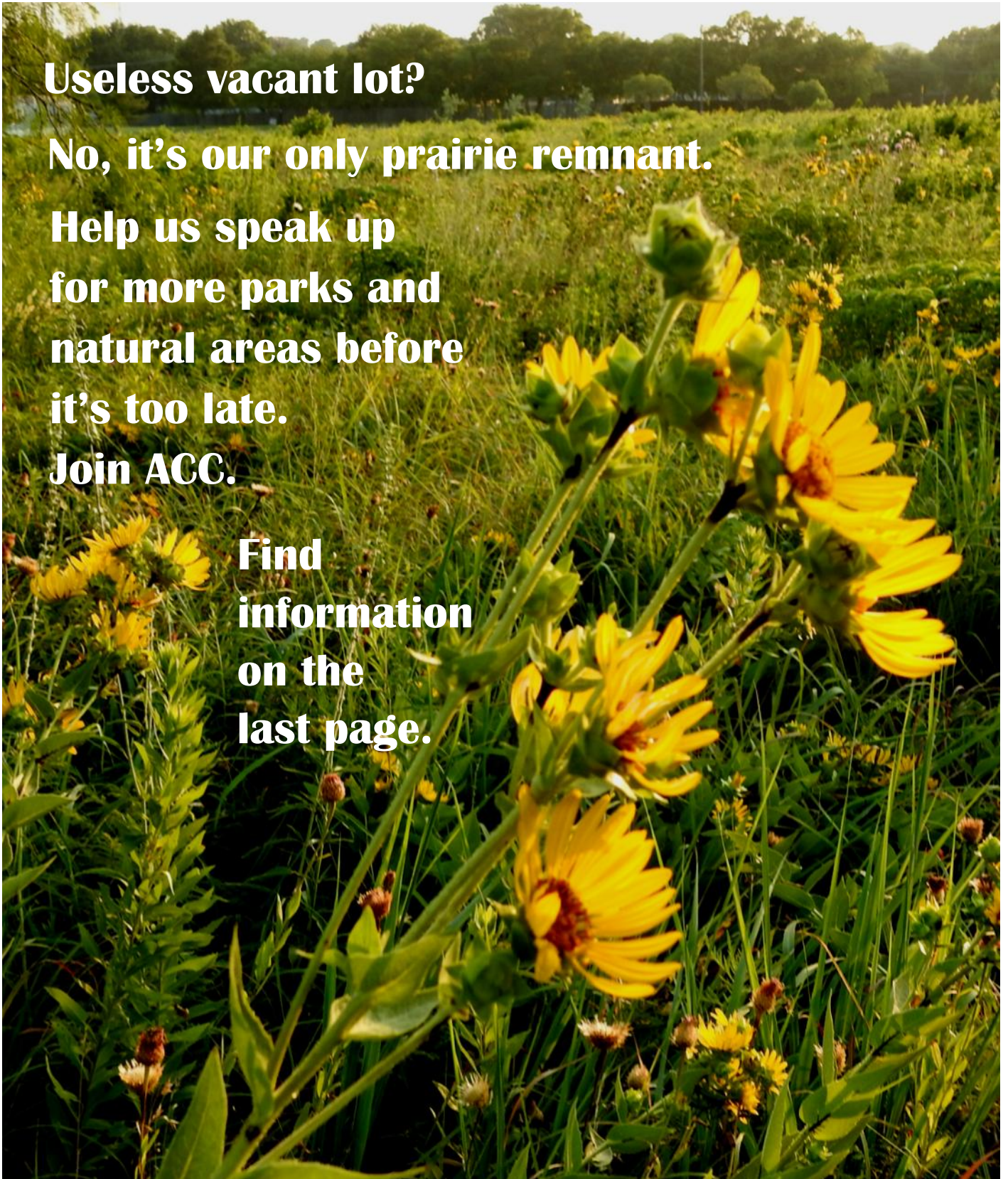
Useless vacant lot?

No, it's our only prairie remnant.

**Help us speak up
for more parks and
natural areas before
it's too late.**

Join ACC.

**Find
information
on the
last page.**



Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte continued on page 19

Watergoat

The watergoat (right) is holding up in the creek at Randol Mill Park, still collecting trash before it enters the pond. Carol Marcotte photo.

Our Parks Dept. guys are keeping the litter trap clear after each rain. We need another rain to give them something to do. Lol



Bluebirds

Randol Mill Park Bluebird monitoring is completed for the 2026 season. We have a new record!

Here are the numbers:

Eggs laid: 111

Bluebirds fledged: 64

Success rate: 58%

Snow White would be proud. I know we are.

Right, Eastern bluebird. Amy Richards photo.



Is RMP a Natural Area?

It's a mix, with lots of mowed parts and athletic fields. But there's still room for nature. Check the evidence on the next pages for mature post oak woods, grassland, and some of our residents. Carol Marcotte photo.



Randol Mill Park continued from page 18, continued on page 20**Workday Schedule**

Volunteer workdays are on the 4th Thursday of each month. Summer hours: 8 - 11 am. Winter: 9 - noon.

Here is the schedule for the rest of the year:

Sept. 24 8 - 11 am

Oct 22 9 - noon

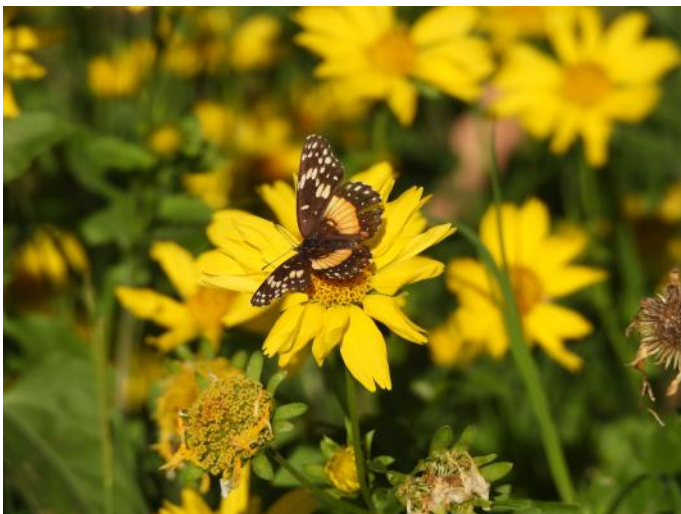
Nov 19 9 - noon (date changed for Thanksgiving)

Dec 17 9 - noon (date changed for Christmas)

Bring your gloves, water, hat, tools, bug spray and sunscreen.

To be added to the email contact list call or text Carol Marcotte at cell (817) 793-3917.

Reminders and changes in date or time due to weather conditions will be emailed to you.



Above, Bordered patch butterfly, White-crowned night heron. Amy Richards photos. Below, typical forest edge. Carol Marcotte photo.



Randol Mill Park continued from page 19

Above, a tree clings to the bank of the RMP stream. Carol Marcotte photo. *Below*, Red-shouldered hawk, Giant swallowtail. Amy Richards photos. *Bottom*, the prairie, where we're sowing wildflower seeds and removing invasive plants. Carol Marcotte photo.



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update **Marian Hiler**

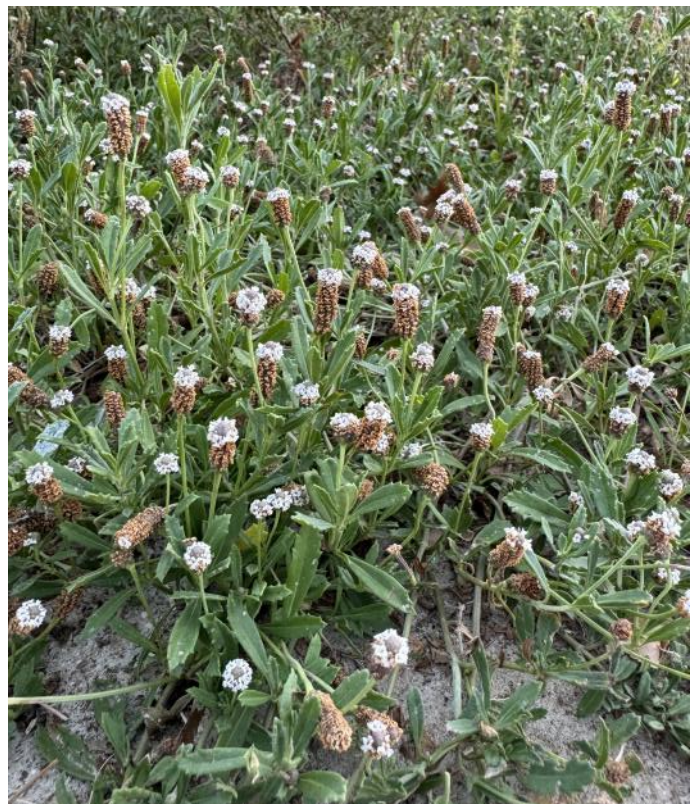
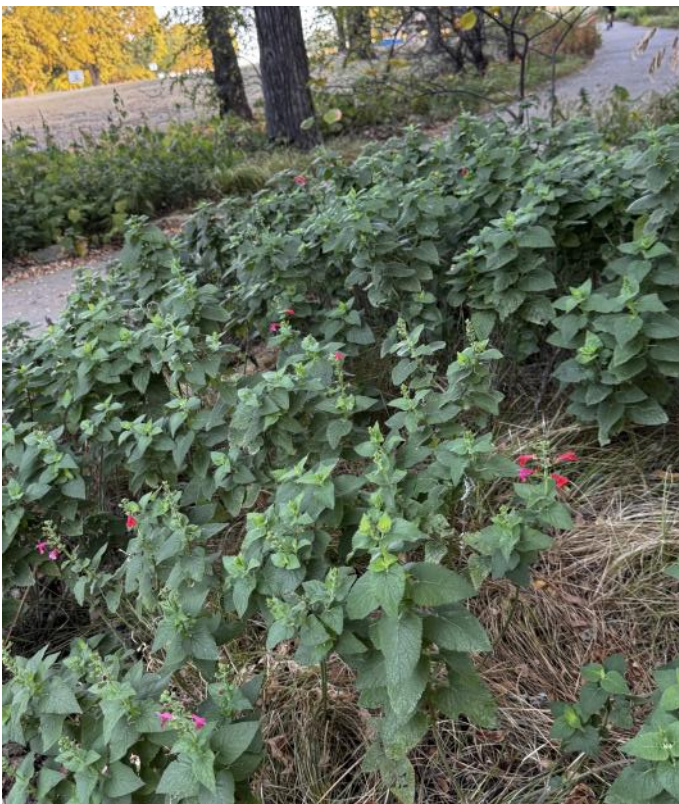
The hot temperatures of the dog days of summer still linger. In fact, the heat's been cranked up making it tough on people and plants alike. We humans can deal with it by sitting in front of our a/cs sipping iced tea, but plants have no escape. But they have developed other ways to cope, from cutting back on producing blooms, to dropping leaves, to going dormant. This is not their time to shine. Instead, it's to survive another season.

Since it was established over 30 years ago, the wildscape has been about demonstrating to homeowners the wisdom of using well-adapted native plants that require little water in their own gardens. Now is a good time to visit to see firsthand what is surviving and looking attractive in one of the toughest months. You will be able to get some of those plants at our fall plant sale on September 27. See page 31 for details.

The demonstration gardens are found in the original area by Molly's sign, the butterfly garden, and along the sidewalk running the full length of the western border. Much like in a homeowner's garden, they do get some care. This time of year it's watering with drip irrigation and some weekly hand watering where the drip hoses don't reach. The rest of the wildscape gets by with little attention, mostly clearing trails and privet removal. We continue to work the trails in the wooded areas of encroaching growth, mostly grasses and coralberry. Mulch provided by the parks department is then spread on top to keep down the erosion and weeds. It's a calming place to work not only for the shade, but for the butterflies, birds singing and the occasional skink.

continued on page 22

From left, Scarlet sage. Frogfruit, Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 21, continued on page 23

From left above, Pigeonberry. Obedient plant. From left below, Turk's cap. Pavonia. Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 22, continued on page 24

From left above, Flame acanthus, Inland sea oats. From left below, Crossvine, Roughleaf Dogwood. Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 23, continued on page 25



Clockwise from upper left, Josephine Keeney waters the edges of the Butterfly Garden. Ann Knudsen photo. Christine Brinson and Ann Knudsen clean up the edges on one of the inner trails. Carol Marcotte waters along the west sidewalk demo garden. Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 24, continued on page 26

Clockwise from upper right, Joe Martinez and Sezar Fakhimi load up the mulch. Marian Hiler photo. Joe Martinez delivers the mulch to one of the trails. Sezar Fakhimi spreads mulch. Ann Knudsen photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 25, continued on page 27

National Moth Week at the wildscape

This year, the City of Arlington conducted its fifth annual Moth Night on July 22 at the wildscape during National Moth Week. Melissa Walker, City of Arlington stormwater education specialist and coordinator for the event, said it drew double the attendance of the previous year despite extreme heat, with approximately 75 or more participants. No doubt a big draw was special guest speaker Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist Sam Kieschnick. He engaged both children and adults as he provided interesting insight on moths and their importance to our local ecosystem. There were t-shirts for visitors and multiple viewing stations set up along the parking area and walking trails. Sam said, “We had a CRAZY successful night, despite it being like 100 degrees at dusk! So many participants and so many bugs documented on this evening!” There was a total of 350 species with 97 species being moths (and a butterfly) observations recorded in iNaturalist.



Above, Sam Kieschnick warms up the crowd. Ann Knudsen photo. Below from left, Signate looper moth, Hollow-spotted blepharomastix. Dusky-blue groundstreak. John Darling photos.



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Clockwise from above,
Melissa Walker hands
out Mothing Night
t-shirts.

Ann Knudsen photo.
A father and daughter
check out what
landed.

A visitor takes
pictures of a tiny
insect.

Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update

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Clockwise from above, Sam examines a large insect. Giant walking stick. Marian Hiler photos. Moonseed moth. John Darling photo.



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Classes at the ACTIV Center

On August 25, greenhouse volunteer Kay Sekio gave a talk about easy container gardening, giving practical, time-saving strategies for creating and maintaining attractive container gardens. One strategy Kay covered is to start your design using the “Thriller, Filler, Spiller” planting technique which uses three different types of plants to create balanced, eye-catching arrangements. Thrillers are the tall focal point, fillers add mass and texture, and spillers cascade over the edge of your pot.

Charley Amos will give the next class at the ACTIV Center in October.



Wildscape Volunteer Opportunities

Summer Hours 8 - 11 Wednesdays and first Saturdays

All are welcome, no experience necessary. Members of ecology and garden groups can earn credit hours.

For more information contact info@thewildscape.org

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Melissa Walker explores citizen science opportunities at the August 1 mini-class. Ann Knudsen photo.

First Saturday mini-classes

At the **August 1** mini-class, “Citizen Science and Our Water,” Melissa Walker, Stormwater Education Specialist for the City of Arlington, presented her citizen science and stormwater education programs. These programs engage the public with hands-on activities that provide scientific, economic and social benefits. They include assisting with pond adventure and pollinator classes at River Legacy, coordinating pollinator bio-surveys at TCC and local native plant gardens, and hosting the city’s annual Moth Night.

Melissa emphasized community feedback is central to her programming decisions. She solicited input on what residents want, whether edible plant walks, bio surveys, or other nature-based events. If you want to request programs or share ideas contact her via email at melissa.walker@arlingtontx.gov.

You can watch her mini-class and ones from Saturdays past on the wildscape’s YouTube channel [here](#).

On **September 5**, Texas Master Naturalist and Native Plant Society representative Sandy Fountain will be talking about NPSOT’s landscaping certification classes. The classes — open to everyone — will teach you about native plants, how to use them in your landscape design and how to care for them.

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Wildscape Fall Native Plant Sale

When: **Sunday, September 27, 2026**

Where: **Greenhouse at the
ACTIV Recreation Center
2061 W Green Oaks Blvd
Arlington, TX**

Time: **10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Visit: **Website for more details,
pictures and prices:**

thewildscape.org

Link for the picture Gallery of all plants at the Plants Sale:

thewildscape.org/plantsale

Plant Sale features

The sale features a large variety of plant species grown organically at the Greenhouse by Wildscape volunteers, including: Ground Covers, Perennials, Shrubs, Vines and Trees.

- Grown organically from local stock
- No need for pesticides or fertilizers
- Adapted to our climate
- Many plants able to handle drought



Purple Coneflower



Flame Acanthus

Social Media

**Be sure to visit
ACC's Facebook page
(867 followers)
and
Discussion Group
(159 members)**



What do you want to talk about today?

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve

Coming up Annabelle Corboy

Saturday evening, September 12, 7 pm

Bats of the Area and How to Find Them

Mark your calendar for this special event at SCNP. Local bat enthusiasts Ellen Ravkind and Anne Alderfer, along with bat expert Kate Rugroden from the Bat World Sanctuary will provide our program at the preserve.

Kate will talk about the bats in this area and the role the sanctuary plays in education and rehabilitation. Ellen and Anne will demonstrate the use of the echolocation devices from Wildlife Acoustics (Echo Meter Touch 2).

Kate Rugroden is Director of Special Projects for the Bat World Sanctuary and is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator specializing in bats, raccoons, and opossums. To learn more visit www.batworld.org and www.bwmidcities-batworld.org. Dr. Ellen Ravkind is the Public Programs Manager/ Environmental Educator at River Legacy Foundation/River Legacy Nature Center. Anne Alderfer is a Naturalist at River Legacy Park and a Master Naturalist.

We will meet in the amphitheater that overlooks the south pond. You might want to bring bug spray and water, and a good flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries for getting back to the parking lot at the end of the evening.

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SCNP continued from page 33**Coming up** Annabelle Corboy**Saturday morning, September 26, 9 am****Noticing and Journaling at SCNP**

This is planned as a monthly series. These events are part naturalist's walk, part mindfulness and forest bathing, and part drawing and writing about what we have noticed. Not just a passing look, but more deeply noticing, paying attention to, and appreciating. We will look for plants, animals, and fungi. We'll slow down and focus on all the things to notice in the woods, prairie openings, and ponds. And we will find time to journal about it with sketches or words.

This will happen on the 4th Saturday of each month, with the time varying according to season. We will start with 9 am, but later in the year we could switch to afternoons, or occasionally walk in the evening. The activity is great for adults and for kids old enough to enjoy some periods of stillness and quiet to write or draw in a journal. We welcome beginners, folks who may be new to mindfulness, journaling, or nature study. And we will keep the groups small.

Meet in the parking lot. For September, bring mosquito repellent, sunscreen, and water. Check our [Facebook page](#) for any last-minute updates.

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Michael Smith photo.

SCNP continued from page 34**Online Series****Five Programs on The Wild Lives of Texas' Reptiles
& Amphibians — Now Archived****Authored and presented by Michael Smith****[Click here](#) to attend the Zoom talks any time.****Five Programs on "The Wild Lives of Texas' Reptiles & Amphibians" - Done and Archived**

This past spring and early summer, the Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve and the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists co-sponsored a series of Zoom presentations called "The Wild Lives of Texas' Reptiles and Amphibians." They are an in-depth introduction to reptiles and amphibians, without being too technical. Michael Smith (author of two books on the subject) discussed how these animals live and presented lots of photos of many of our local species. The presentations, each about 1.5 hours, were recorded and are available on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@FriendsofSCNP>.

The first one covered the nature of these animals and how to look for them in the field. The next topic was amphibians, the frogs, toads, and salamanders of our area. Then the topic was the American alligator and the various turtles that live in North Texas. Another presentation covered lizards and snakes, including information about venomous snake bite and first aid. The last presentation focused on the conservation problems that Texas' reptiles and amphibians face, as well as how state and federal agencies are dealing with embattled species and how we can help.

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Spotted chorus frog, Texas spiny lizard. Michael Smith photos.

SCNP continued from page 35**Third Saturday Volunteers**

On Saturday, September 19, we're back from summer vacation! Check our [Facebook page](#) for start time.

North Texas Giving Day Is September 17

North Texas Giving Day is presented by Communities Foundation of Texas. The mission of Communities Foundation of Texas, (CFT) is to improve the lives of all people in our community by investing in their health, wealth, living, and learning. Go [here](#) and scroll down to see and perhaps donate to participating non-profits. Among the many worthy organizations, you will find SCNP. Or look [here](#) to see the Friends of SCNP Giving Day website.

SCNP iNaturalist Observations — July 2026 Annabelle Corboy

For July: 130 Observations; 102 Species; 6 Observers.

Totals at SCNP at the end of July:

27,601 Observations, 2,258 Species, 2,205 Identifiers, 366 Observers

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Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*) — *diasporadenizen*, Western Soapberry (*Sapindus drummondii*) — charley.

SCNP continued from page 36**SCNP iNaturalist Observations — June 2026** Annabelle Corboy

Above from left, Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — charley, Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) — charley.
Below from left, Snake Apple (*Ibervillea lindheimeri*) — drawntoscales, Western Ratsnake (*Pantherophis obsoletus*) - drawntoscales.



Blackland Prairie Preserve Guy Random

*A few arrivals
And so many departures.
It's that time of year.
Yet we're dense, complex.
So many still lingering,
Departure lounge full.*



ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships are good for one year, renewable each January. Your dues go directly to our public education efforts.

Membership Information

Name _____

First-year member \$10

Address _____

Individual \$15

New Member ☐

Family \$25

Phone _____

Supporting \$40

Renewing member ☐

Email _____

Sponsor \$100

Lifetime Individual \$250

Other \$ _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216. Or pay via PayPal, Venmo, or credit card [HERE](#). Contributions and dues are tax-deductible. ACC is a nonprofit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization. If you cannot pay, let any board member know. The newsletter is available via email and the ACC website.

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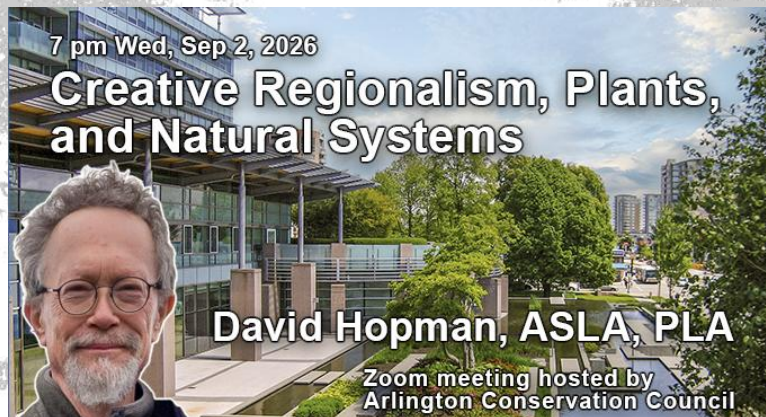
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Watch this talk on our YouTube channel. [Click here.](#)



See page 6 for more on this meeting.