

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 10

**OCTOBER
2003**

Don't miss the native plant sale!
See page 5 for details.

New Compost Site Is Born in SW Arlington



October Meeting

- TOPIC:** Our Next Bond Election
- SPEAKER:** A member of the Arlington City Council (to be named later)
- WHEN:** Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 pm
- WHERE:** First United Methodist Church, 313 N. Center at Division. (Enter through north door.)
- NOTE:** This bond program involves \$84 million we need to be informed about.

**Remember to bring
something for the raffle!**

Volunteers Needed Saturday, October 18, 9:00-12:00 at Tierra Verde Golf Club

Arlington is already unusual in having two compost demonstration sites. Now here's a chance for us to add a third as we continue our climb to the top of the compost heap; a chance to work with Arlington Master Composters, especially those who live in SW Arlington and would enjoy working close to home; and a chance to work with the dedicated staff of our only certified environmentally-friendly golf course.

Right now the site is a weedy field, but by the 18th it will be a mowed weedy field with a water source. All we have to do is make it into a compost site, and the rest will be easy.

Bring tools and wheelbarrows, follow the signs around the golf course entrance, or call John Darling (see back page) for more information.



At the site: Tami Busby, Landscape Supervisor, ACC Vice President Stephen Smith, and Evonne Sandas, Arlington Golf Operations Superintendent, discuss details of creating a compost site from scratch.

From the President Marian Hiler



ACC is getting a little more techie in running one of its message services (that sounds a little techie right there). Until just recently we have been using ACCnet for

sending email messages to those who have taken advantage of that service. Recently, ACCnet has been replaced by ArlingtonConservationCouncil Yahoo! Group. All current ACCnet members have been added to the new ACC group. This change takes the burden off any one person to keep up with the distribution list and to be diligent in forwarding messages. We thank John O'Malley who has been that one person for the past couple of years or so.

Now you can send your message to the ACC Yahoo! Group. This will essentially send it out to members directly, making it easier to have group discussions on current topics. Thanks go to Bonnie Bowman who made the great

suggestion to take advantage of a Yahoo! Group and provided advice, and to Dale Denton who created our ACC group.

If you want to join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ArlingtonConservationCouncil/join>. If you run into any problems, please contact either Dale Denton at daled@flash.net or me. I've found it to be just a little cantankerous at times when signing up a new member.

Speaking of getting the word out, the ACC Phone Tree Committee has been doing a great job in calling members to remind them of our monthly meetings. It shows because the monthly attendance has gone up to about 30 people since they started calling. We've had terrific programs all along thanks to our great Program Chair, Steve Smith, and now more people are taking advantage of them. The great raffle prizes probably didn't hurt either. We appreciate all those who contribute items.

Right now you're holding one of our very best message services, our newsletter. To help keep it fresh, and maybe

more importantly, to help keep our editor from being overtaxed each month, new voices would be greatly welcome. Gita Mani and John Blair are frequent contributors, and this month Candy Halliburton has joined the regular staff. One-time contributors are also wanted. You don't have to write a whole column; something short is probably read before any of the longer articles.

Some have indicated that they would be willing to write an article. A common question is, "What should I write about?" A few of us see topics everywhere. For the rest of us (including me), here are some hopefully helpful suggestions. Write about an issue that has been on your mind. Maybe you think someone needs recognition for a job well done or a good deed carried out. If you have some helpful information, we want in on it. If you have a flair for poetry, like John Blair, you know it gets in the newsletter.

So please, let's try to keep our editor from getting burnout. We certainly want to keep him as our editor for a long time to come. *(Editor's note: Bah, humbug.)*

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.

Edmund Burke

POST OAK

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Tidbit

ACC member Ellen Baskerville recently received The Applause Award from the UTA Libraries. She was recognized for getting a recycling program established within the library. She also received a nifty pin that she wears proudly. Ellen has shown that one person can make a positive difference. She is on the reference library staff at UTA and is heading up the Wildscape sign project.

**Is Arlington's litter
making you a little irritable?**



You can do something about it!

Once a month, the city selects an area for special litter cleanup and needs 10 to 15 volunteers to help from 9 to noon on a Saturday. If you hate litter enough to do something about it, contact Roni Crotty at 817-459-6587 or crottyr@ci.arlington.tx.us

Next Cleanup October 4

**Target: a trashy stream
south of Meadowbrook Park**

Arlington Parks 101

Candy Halliburton

Someone once told me that Sarah Dendy had made it her goal as a member of the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) to visit every park in Arlington. I never verified this with Sarah because, number one, I knew it would be true and, number two, I thought such an achievement would be too daunting a task for me to fulfill. Though Arlington has less land per capita dedicated to parks than many cities in the metroplex, the total number of parks has reached a staggering 84. This number includes 38 neighborhood parks (10-15 acres), 17 community parks (20-200 acres), 11 city parks (like River Legacy and Harold Patterson) and 18 linear parks devoted to maintaining natural habitat and drainage.

Well, here I am, 2 years later, slightly more knowledgeable about the workings of a large parks system thanks to our wonderful parks staff, 26 months worth of meetings, and a 3" binder chock full of orientation and informational material. As a member of the "Maintenance and Operations Subcommittee" of the PARB, I have now decided to see first hand how our parks are being maintained and preserved.

Armed with my current colorful parks brochure and my ratty 1997 Mapsco, with its loose pages and HUGE empty spaces where subdivisions now sit, I have begun an adventure within Arlington's borders. With Wayne, my husband, as patient driver and companion, I have randomly navigated us through uncharted neighborhoods and visited 15 or 16 parks these last several weeks. I fell in step with a friendly walker at S. J. Stovall Park, who, for a half mile, extolled the virtues of its character and usage; from the mile-long concrete path, which is shared by in-line skaters, walkers, cyclists and joggers, to the pavilion which is regularly rented for weekend gatherings, to the natural area that is specifically set aside for horseback riders.

At F. J. "Red" Kane Park, Wayne and I strolled through the woods, noting it would be a perfect place to encourage a neighborhood cleanup. I talked to a couple and to a group of women who were picnicking under a tree (there's a concept—a picnic table in the SHADE!) next to the playground. With their young children, they all enjoyed the park, including the fishing pond (which was undergoing a duck feeding frenzy when we were there), the walk, and the woods. One woman mentioned the litter collecting around the pond edges, a typical problem of which we ACC members are well aware.

By now you may be wondering, having read my ramblings, when, if ever, I am going to impart some bit of useful information relating to conservation or organic living. I must admit that when Marian asked me to write a regular article, she requested that it be related to ACC interests and concerns. In the future, it will be. This was merely an introduction to our wonderful, versatile parks.

As Arlington citizens, park and recreation users, and members of the greater universe, I feel it is our task to be "green" caretakers of our environment. As such, we should be willing and enthusiastic supporters of our parks and partners with our dedicated park employees.



From left to right, a nice guy from the Parks Department, Jean-Marie Smith, Dale Denton, Marian Hiler, Stephen Smith, Roni Crotty, Julia Burgen, a nice guy from the Water Department, Jo Briggs, and Molly Hollar. (The editor forgot to write down the new names.)

More Trash Bashed

On Saturday, September 20, ACC was the designated group for the Trinity Trash Bash, Founders Park division. A bunch of Cub Scouts picked up lots of trash, and so did we.

Wildscape House For Sale

Certified native-plant Wildscape. South Arlington, Louisiana Plantation style, one of a kind designed by Baton Rouge architect. Approx. 4240 sq ft, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, on approx 1.3 acres, pool, real shutters, extensive use of brick, marble, wood. Ten-foot ceilings downstairs, 9-foot ceilings upstairs. Custom stereo speakers in ceilings of every downstairs room and patio. Sub-zero refrigerator-freezer, ice-maker, compactor, grill, triple sink. Tennessee marble countertops in kitchen and 3 baths. Pool, patio, deck, balcony, fully automatic sprinkler system, gated driveway. \$499,900. 817-472-5101.



Wildscape Update Gita Mani



What's in bloom?

Walks around the wildscape are pleasant now, what with cooler weather and the many plants in bloom. From the parking lot you can

see mealy blue sage and cheery Gregg salvia. Elsewhere, you'll find Turk's cap, scarlet sage and butterfly weed. Nectar from the coral honeysuckle satisfies many a hungry hummingbird. Clumps of glossy purple fruit weigh the branches of the American beautyberry down into graceful arcs. Bearing leaves edged with saw-like teeth that give the plant its name, the bright yellow saw-leaf daisy adds a punch of color. Look all you want but don't TOUCH.



Weeding never seems to end, but our volunteers always bend to the challenge.

Workday Highlights

Twenty volunteers contributed to the September Saturday workday. In the last installment of the summer weeding program, some removed crab grass and Bermuda grass from the compost area. Dale Denton pruned branches overhanging the trail. Mike Warren led five youths from the Tarrant County Juvenile Services in mulching the path from the xeriscape deck to the lower trail.

On a Tuesday workday, Devanie Fergus, Ann Trenton and Mary Turner covered the bare spots left by crab grass and buffalo grass dug up from the wildflower meadow. They also layered the back of a trail with newspapers and

woodchip mulch.

Adopt an Area

Volunteers now have the option of adopting different areas of the wildscape. This will give their efforts a focus without tying them down to those areas exclusively. Imagine the thrill in giving an area one-pointed attention and watching it transform.

Anyone interested in adopting can go solo or be part of a team. There are no deadlines, and plants and plans will be provided as will consultation, help and support.

Pat Lovejoy and Kay Seiko adopted the woodchip path in front of the compost area and around the kiosk by the main entrance. Gailon Hardin declared the butterfly and hummingbird garden her adoptee. Devanie will focus on the very visible beds near the compost area. Patsy Tucker and/or the Alderfers (Anne and Randy) will take the small pond that once gurgled but is now filled with standing water and fallen leaves. Jan Miller will care for the prairie area and continue leading the privet removal team.

Among the areas still up for adoption: Upper half of hill between main entrance and pavilion; lower half of hill; upper part of bioswale; lower part of bioswale; area around pavilion. Call Molly at 817-860-5580 to adopt, join a team, or suggest areas for adoption.

Native Plant Propagation at Molly Hollar's

Usually every Friday from 9:00 am – noon; call ahead if you plan on going. Sticking cuttings, potting rooted cuttings and getting ready for the Native Plant Sale at the Molly Hollar Wildscape on



September saw the biggest Master Composter class yet. Master Composter Don Graves instructed about 10 interested people in our secluded classroom.

October 4 (see details below) have been the focus of recent sessions. To join in plant propagation, call Molly at 817-860-5580.

There will be no meeting on Friday, October 17, because most propagation regulars will be in Fredericksburg for the Native Plant Society of Texas Fall Symposium 2003, which will be held from October 16-19.

Thanks!

To Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and other volunteers who pitched in with time, energy, delicious eats, shopping trips for gardening supplies, and in many other ways. Thanks to Carol Wester, Sheri Quick, Joy Lease, and newcomers Louise Engel, Hester Schwarze, and Michelle Ansdotter for their help. Michelle brought a tray of



Stephen Smith appears scientific as he (and Jean-Marie) continue monthly testing of the Wildscape's stream.

magic cookie bars to a plant propagation session at Molly's and shared her grandma's recipe with us. The magic lay as much in the bars' scrumptiousness and ease of preparation as in the number of people who

Wildscape Update *continued from page 4*

bucked their diets for a taste. Many thanks to Molly—for busy, busy hands and such a giving heart. John Darling, thank you for filling in for me by writing the update last month. You have the rare gift of telling it like it is and being funny. You did great except for misspelling your name in the byline!

Volunteer Opportunities at the Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park

Native Plant Sale

When: Saturday, October 4, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Plenty of great natives grown from local sources will be on sale, including grasses and flowering plants. Volunteers get 25% off already low prices now through sale day. Other items for sale will include Sally Wasowski's book *Native Texas Plants* and fantastic garden gloves. **Volunteers needed:** 8:00 am – noon or noon – 4:00 pm; refreshments provided. Volunteers will help with sales, answer customers' questions about native plants, and begin fall planting at the Wildscape. If you're a volunteer and would like to pre-buy or if you can volunteer on October 4, please call Molly at 817-860-5580.

Semimonthly Workdays

When: Saturday, October 4 and 25, 9:00 am – noon

This is a great time to continue fall planting. Plants will put down roots from now until the first freeze, then continue strengthening through the winter and be ready to grow in the spring. Refreshments provided.

Directions: Veterans Park is at the corner of Arkansas Lane and Spanish Trail. Parking for the Wildscape is at the second entrance, off Spanish Trail south of Arkansas Lane.

Weekly Workdays

Tuesdays, 8:00 am – 11:00 am. Call Molly at 817-860-5580 if you plan on going.

Thanks

To Shane Goetz for supporting our efforts. If you'd like to help and publicize your business, call any board member for details.

METRO 817/265-2902

ROSSETTI AND GOETZ
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

SHANE GOETZ

715 WEST ABRAM ST.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013



Please join us in honoring
Julia Burgen
for her many years of dedicated service
to the City of Arlington

Sunday, October 5
2:30 – 5:30 pm

Historic Fielder House
1616 W. Abram at Fielder Rd.

Sponsors: Arlington Historical Society, East Arlington Renewal, Arlington Conservation Council



Don't Forget Julia's Reception

Julia has said several times that she hopes to see all the ACC people at the reception. If you can help out, please contact Marian Hiler, 817-277-3998.

EXPLORATION EXPO 2003

Bringing the community together in a celebration of unity with all life, while discovering alternative resources for healthy living.

Unity Church of Arlington

3525 S. Bowen Road
(two blocks north of Arbrook Blvd)
Saturday, October 11, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Booths, entertainers, door prizes, giveaways and much more! We're learning, exploring and having fun in Arlington!

Workshops include Reiki, Aromatherapy, Natural Health Care, Getting Right with Money, Vaccine Issues and More. Visit us at www.explorationexpo2003.com.

Participating Organizations

Arlington Conservation Council, Carter Blood Bank, Green Mountain Energy, Harris Hospital, and Whole Foods Market.

Admission: General \$5.00. Individual Workshops \$2.00 (w/ General Admission). General Admission + ALL Workshops \$10.00. KID ZONE (ages 3-10) \$2.00

NOTE: ACC will present its display and the recycling game here, and we'll need help with both. Please call or e-mail any board member if you'd like to help.

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

Please circle membership category.

Name _____

Individual \$12.00

Address _____

Student \$6.00

Family \$18.00

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Supporting \$24.00

E-mail _____

Organization/Business \$36.00

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216.

ACC is a non-profit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

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THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council

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Don't forget!

At the October meeting an
Arlington City Council member
will discuss the next bond
election.

Don't miss it!

Be sure to visit us at

arlingtonconservationcouncil.org



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