

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER
2003

December Meeting

TOPIC: Anything You'd Like

SPEAKER: You

WHEN: Wednesday, December 10,
7:00 pm

WHERE: First United Methodist Church,
313 N. Center at Division.
(Enter through north door.)

NOTE: It's our new Holiday Social.
We'll supply drinks, and you'll
bring a little food and a lot of
conversation (we hope).

Remember to bring
something for the green
elephant gift exchange!
See page 2 for details.

Computer Recycling a Success

What are we supposed to do with outmoded computers and all the stuff that comes with them? Many old PCs still work; even if they don't, they may be full of recyclable bits and sinister things we don't want in our landfill. On November 15 city employees and volunteers solved the problem for more than 600 people who brought their old computers and other electronics to a UTA parking lot. The recycling event was organized by Allen Jones, Arlington landfill director, and Lorrie Anderle, our recycling coordinator. An hour before closing, both were exhausted and excited by the size of the turnout, which was about three times what they had anticipated. They collected about 45 tons of electronic equipment, filling seven 40-yard dumpsters and a box truck.

Like all recycling efforts, this one had several positive effects: those 45 tons were diverted from the landfill and sent instead to Resource Concepts in Carrollton, a company that specializes in getting the best machines refurbished and the rest dismantled for recycling and reuse or safe disposal. And it all happens at certified facilities in the U.S.

If you missed the event, you can still take old CPUs, monitors, printers, keyboards, and other peripherals to the landfill to be recycled. Call the landfill at 817-283-0632 for directions.



A very small sample of the 45 tons of computer and other electronic equipment collected at the Computer Roundup. Inset: Organizers Lorrie Anderle and Allen Jones. We're indebted to you and everyone who helped with all the hard work.

From the President Marian Hiler



I know December is a busy time of year, so I encourage you to come to our December 10 meeting. It will be a nice breather from all the holiday hubbub,

giving you a chance to relax and have some fun. Instead of a regular speaker we will be speaking with each other. Please bring a snack and your Board will provide coffee, tea, water and ice.

At our latest Board meeting we felt we should put our actions where our collective ACC mouths are, and so we will provide compostable plates, cloth napkins and reusable utensils. We ask

that you bring your own drinking vessel—reusable, of course.

Don't forget about what I referred to last month as a white elephant gift exchange. We also thought that this should be more of a green elephant gift or a re-gift exchange. Instead of buying something for this activity, consider using one of those gifts you received from someone who doesn't know you very well, like your Aunt Ethel. Maybe there's something you bought for yourself in a moment of wildness that you now wonder what had possessed you at the time. Wrap it up in the Sunday funnies or put it in one of those reusable gift bags. We will draw numbers and choose gifts in numerical order. Each person picks a present, unwraps it

and can either keep it or exchange it with another who has already opened their gift.

January is when we conduct our annual planning meeting. It will be on Saturday, January 12, from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm at the Epworth United Methodist Church. We will review our accomplishments in 2003 and plan for the coming year. We will also vote on the 2004 ACC Board. Our Nominating Committee has been busy compiling and contacting a list of candidates. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact one of the current Board members. Thanks go to Steve Smith, Candy Halliburton and Sharon Schoech for serving on this committee.

Hate Litter?

Do Something About It!

Join the monthly cleanup by contacting Roni Crotty at 817-459-6587 or crottyr@ci.arlington.tx.us

Next Cleanup Friday, Dec 12

2045 SE Green Oaks
St Andrews Methodist Church
parking lot

THE POST OAK

Published 10 times a year by the
Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216

Direct all newsletter correspondence to:

John Darling, Editor
1316 S. Pecan St.
Arlington, Texas 76010
817-274-1077 1darling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

Julia Burgen, Marian Hiler, Gita Mani

Proofreader Grace Darling

Mailing Specialists Peg and Tom Kennedy

Crud Cruiser Continues Cleanup

On November 22 Arlington's mobile hazardous waste collection unit (Crud Cruiser sounds a lot better) was stationed at a UTA parking lot and your editor was required to come clean after a couple of decades of accumulating vile substances. Only five minutes after 8:00 am a long line had already formed. And of course, there was an old acquaintance, Tim Huebner from the Water Department, taking names and learning entirely too much about my unsavory lifestyle. Turns out that these mobile collections are popular: from October 2001 to September 2002, 515 households were served by the cruiser. From the looks of things, that's a great deal of hazardous waste disposed of safely.



Lots of cars make it clear that you really do need to arrive early at the Crud Cruiser. When it's full, it leaves.

The Crud Cruiser is staffed by members of the Arlington Fire Department who have been trained to handle hazardous waste safely.



Reminiscences Julia Burgen

The occasion of the reception in my honor on October 5 brought many memories to the surface from my 25 years in Arlington.

I started life west of Fort Worth, in Cisco, and lived in Abilene, El Paso, Dallas, Florida, and Dallas again before coming to Arlington in December 1977. Still, when we arrived here, Arlington seemed like a familiar place. You see, my first-grade teacher in Cisco was Ruby Ray Swift, and as we drove to our new home, there was an elementary school named for her. In high school in Dallas, my favorite teacher had been Julia Fielder, and as we moved here, there was a campaign underway to save the Fielder House—my teacher had grown up in that house.

My Dad worked for the Chevrolet Division in Dallas and knew dealers in the area, and consequently Mr. and Mrs. Hooker Vandergriff were among the guests invited to our wedding in 1956. Also in Dallas in the 1970s I corresponded with a Kay Taebel in Arlington on environmental issues.

Much of our good feeling in Arlington came from finding a house in a wonderfully designed subdivision called Lakewood. It had a lake in the back (not a drainage ditch), lots of native trees, good sandy soil for planting, no fences separating neighbors, and a good school system.

Later I went back to college at UTA from 1982 through 1986. There I met several people whose interests coincided with mine. Of currently active ACC members, I have known John Darling longer than anyone else. At UTA I took mostly biology courses, first undergrad then grad classes, and there was John toiling away in the basement, caretaking living critters and specimens. He was already hosting elementary school groups to view the collections and I began helping him.

I met Martha May Martin in 1985 when I was working on the Rose-Brown-May Park Interpretive Trail Guide for my course work at UTA. That park is now part of River Legacy Parks.

After graduation I got involved with Arlington Park People, Recycling Coalition of Arlington, and Park Pals doing guided walks for school kids at Veterans Park. I took science enrichment classes into day care centers for Dr. Neal Smatresk and the Arlington Institute of Science. I taught classes for the Gifted and Talented Program.

I met Anita Garmon around 1986 while helping the Parks Department in their Wild About Arlington Project by planting seeds at Veterans Park. I met Sarah Dendy through Park Pals and Jo Briggs during the struggle to protect the bottomland hardwood forest along Village Creek and the proposed route of Green Oaks Blvd./Dottie Lynn Parkway. By 1990 I had met Barbara Hibbard at some meeting in Fort Worth. I also finally met Kay Taebel and a lot of her friends, including Marianne Herrmann and Bev Fogleman. I first met Lana Wolff in the

early 1990s during Trinity River Awareness clean-up days. Through Sierra Club I met Eddie Jean and Gary Kriedeman.

I paid attention to people who wrote Letters to the Editor and one who really impressed me was Tommey Conway. Since no clues to address or phone number are in the paper, I did a bit of sleuthing and finally met her.

And so it went, as I gradually met more and more people and joined groups working for environmental issues in Arlington. Ten years ago there were about 15 of us just getting started with the hard work of reorganizing the Arlington Conservation Council and getting tree protection added to the Landscape Ordinance. That was soon followed by the Wildscape project in 1994, then volunteering at Household

Hazardous Waste collection days, Arbor Day events, Johnson Creek in 1995, Caelum Moor and Crystal Canyon in 1996, Blackland Prairie, creek cleanups, composting projects, and much more.

Almost everything I've worked on appeared in the t-shirt collection at the reception in October: Arlington Park People, Arlington Institute of Science, Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness, UTA Biological Society, Park Pals, Wild About Arlington, Trinity River Awareness Day, Arlington Organic Garden Club, ACC and AOGC's Wildscape shirt, Friends of Johnson Creek, Crystal Canyon, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days, Arbor Day, Litter

Challenges, and 1997 Park Bond Election.

I especially remember those who helped in my three campaigns for office. Politicos talk about needing \$20,000 to run a district campaign in Arlington. We did it in 1997 for under \$6000, but only because of all of you who helped.

Six years ago I was in my first term on the City Council, learning new responsibilities and meeting a whole bunch of new people. One of the most enjoyable parts of the job was getting acquainted with the city's police and fire personnel. I have been impressed with their professionalism and their fellowship.

Another joy was getting to know people in central and east Arlington: Sue Phillips, Billie Striedel, Alice Pelfrey, Jean-Marie and Stephen Smith, Doland Maner, Roy Miliner, and many others. They helped make my time on council so much easier. For the last half of my years at City Hall I served with my friend, Sheri Capehart. That experience deepened our friendship.

So to all of you who have been so much a part of my life for the last 25 years, it has been a pleasure. To be sure, there were some failed projects and some sadness. Former ACC members Lone Goodman, Tommey Conway, and Stephen Kugle are no longer with us, and I miss them. Yet together we have accomplished a lot, and the future still beckons with lots more to do. Hope to see you at a planting project, creek cleanup, or City Hall. Fondly,

Julia



Wildscape Update Gita Mani



What's in bloom?

Take advantage of a sunny day to enjoy the butterfly ballet: countless painted ladies, sulphurs, red admirals, buckeyes, and skippers feast on

nectar provided by fall aster, Gregg salvia and mealy blue sage. All blooming like there's no tomorrow, in the beds adjoining the compost area where more larval plants were added to attract butterflies: passion vine, Hercules club, and butterflyweed to attract the Gulf fritillary, giant swallowtail, and monarch butterfly, respectively.

Overlook Area

The area around the bench that overlooks the creek was embellished with plants chosen to provide interest year round as the table below shows. Time and your observation will tell if this saying is true: The first year it sleeps, the next year it creeps and the third year it leaps!

Jean Hiler planted creek sedge and white avens. Devanie Fergus, Michelle Ansdotter, Irene Owens and Molly Hollar planted the rest.

A Boy Scout completed the rail fence as his Eagle Scout project. Pat and Gerald Lovejoy built a cedar retaining wall. Mike Warren and his crew of ten from Tarrant County Juvenile Services did the heavy work of moving decomposed granite to level out the area and adding granite to the path leading up to it. Molly and Bernardo installed rocks and boulders to mark the boundary and protect the plants.

Workday Highlights

The November 1 workday included the overlook area. Mike Warren brought a team to mulch the trail from the boardwalk by the pavilion up to the overlook area. Dale Denton pruned overhanging branches to make the trails safe. Winecup, fall aster, and zexmenia were planted opposite the bioswale. Alexia Strout-Dapaz planted four 5-gallon eastern red cedars north of the boardwalk to add to existing ones for an evergreen bird habitat visible from the

pavilion. Others who contributed to the workday are Connie Nolen, Blake Kuppinger, Erin Hayden, Patsy Tucker, Corina Munsch, and Susan Atwood.

ComPOST OAK

The composters keep the wildscape well supplied with organic riches. They're



Pond people: Corina Munsch and Patsy Tucker haul out their aquatic gear after another expert session with the water feature. It's looking a lot better these days.

applying for a grant to bring water to the compost site and surrounding area; since what they do saves landfill space, they're prime candidates for the grant award. Master Composters recently added a new site at the Tierra Verde Golf Course. If

you get the Star-Telegram, you've surely seen pictures of John Darling and Don Graves raking their respective piles. Of compost. Their efforts at raising awareness about composting and leaf recycling do a great deal to keep fallen leaves out of landfills.

Thanks!

To Pat Lovejoy and Gailon Hardin for bringing volunteers through the Master Gardener program and the Native Plant Society of Texas. To the Hiler family for Hercules club, Jeff Quayle for wild foxglove, and Shirley Craig for creek sedge.

Four firefighters jogging through the park one day stopped to tease our volunteers about goofing off. When they heard about the drainage problem at the wildscape, they offered to bring a 10-foot plastic pipe. They not only brought the pipe, they also dug up the ground and installed the pipe. A big-thank you to the anonymous firefighters for their spontaneous contribution! Pat added to the usefulness of the pipe by building a cement catch basin to direct water into the pipe instead of having it wash out onto the path. Thank you, Pat!

Many thanks to Rosa Finsley, our landscape architect who came with her stone crew to enhance the work near the bridge on the creek.

continued on page 5

Plants at the Overlook

Plant/Tree	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Pavonia	Blooms	Greenery	Blooms	Greenery
Possumhaw				Red berries
Rusty blackhaw viburnum	Blooms	Greenery	Mauve/red foliage	
Cherry laurel trees	Greenery	Greenery	Black berries	Greenery
Gregg salvia	Blooms	Blooms	Blooms	Greenery
Mealy blue sage	Blooms	Blooms	Blooms	
Inland sea oats		Seed heads	Seed heads	
Blackfoot daisy	Blooms	Blooms	Blooms	Greenery
Winecup	Blooms			Greenery
Evening primrose	Blooms			Greenery
Creek sedge				Greenery
Prairie rose	Blooms			
White avens	Blooms			Greenery
Purple coneflower	Blooms			
Spreading fleabane	Blooms			
Wild foxglove	Blooms			
Canada wild rye			Showy seed heads	Greenery
Manfreda	Blooms			Greenery

Wildscape Update *continued from page 4*

On November 22, Jonette Tingley celebrated her husband's 70th birthday with a party in his honor and a generous donation to the wildscape, funds from which were used to embellish the area around the overlook bench. Warren was presented with a plaque bearing a removable (and therefore update-able!) picture of the overlook, and an accordion-style brochure of overlook area plants with pictures that Devanie put together. Volunteers who worked on this area attended the party and enjoyed a delicious lunch in addition to the cake and ice cream promised. The Tingleys' grandchildren planted the last five plants in the overlook area to represent Jonette and Warren's five children. Jonette thought Warren would appreciate these gestures to honor his contributions to the wildscape. Thanks to the Tingleys, the overlook area promises to become a place of beauty and repose.



Jonette and Warren Tingley and friends enjoy the festivities at the Overlook.

Thanks and farewell to Sarah Dendy, a wildscape committee member at its inception ten years ago, and a strong supporter ever since. Sarah was a charter member of ACC and has been an active member for many years. She and her husband are moving to North Carolina to be near family. Sarah knows her feathered friends—I remember her effortless birding by ear on a bird count at Tierra Verde—and I'll be sad to see her fly. Molly: "Can't say enough good things about Sarah."

Glad to welcome Jay Falgout back as Parks liaison. Jay will expedite irrigation in the pavilion area. It has been a pleasure working with Jo Wolfenberger who ensured the cooperation of the Parks department in getting the wildscape watered.

To Irene Owens and Jean Hiler for being Tuesday workday regulars. Thanks very much!

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

METRO 817/265-2902
LOCAL 817/274-2905

THE LAW OFFICE OF SHANE GOETZ

715 WEST ABRAM ST. ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE MOLLY HOLLAR WILDSCAPE AT VETERANS PARK

Monthly Workday

Saturday, December 6

Time: 9:00 am – noon; refreshments will be provided.

The focus: planting around the creek; some weeding and privet pulling if the ground is moist from rain; and work in the area opposite the overlook. Bring gloves and shovels. If you'd like to volunteer, please call Molly at 817-860-5580.

Weekly Workdays

Tuesdays, 9:00 am – noon. Call Molly at 817-860-5580 if you plan to attend.

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.

Post Oak Article Attracts Attention

Last month's short feature on the new Tierra Verde Golf Club compost site will be carried (more or less) by the Council of Governments' online publication, *Reflections on the Trinity*, according to editor Tara O'Keefe. To sign up and get an email when new issues come out, go to dfwinfo.com/stayinformed.html. And it's free.

You can also go to dfwinfo.com/envir/reflections/news03/sum/ for the last edition of *Reflections*, or to the Environmental Resources homepage and follow the links.

ACC at UTA's Texas Recycles Day

Thanks to the Environmental Health and Safety folks, we appeared once again at UTA and enjoyed interacting with enthusiastic students and staff. Last Earth Day UTA provided compostable food trays and eating utensils for use with some pretty greasy baked potatoes, and here we were able to show how well they have broken down since last April. They're the same kind of trays that we'll be using (and then composting) at the December social meeting. Seems like the thing to do, especially for us.



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.

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Arlington Conservation Council Officers and Board of Directors

President Marian Hiler 277-3998

mern11@airmail.net

1st Vice President Stephen Smith 275-7469

buggy188@juno.com

2nd Vice President Roy Miliner 226-0203

rlmiliner@comcast.net

Treasurer Jean-Marie Smith 275-7469

buggy188@juno.com

Secretary Jo Briggs 460-8483

Editor John Darling 274-1077

1darling@sbcglobal.net

Board Members

Ellen Baskerville 457-4881

mizellen@worldnet.att.net

Sarah Dendy 472-5101

yah64desmgr1@comcast.net

Molly Hollar 860-5580

John O'Malley 460-8646

jpomalleycpg@attbi.com

THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council

PO Box 216

Arlington, TX 76004-0216

Don't forget!

The December meeting will be
our Holiday Social, featuring
food, conversation, and fun.
Don't miss it!

December 10 at
First Methodist Church

Be sure to visit us at
arlingtonconservationcouncil.org



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