

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 5

JULY 2004

Note: Special Date and Time for July Meeting

July Meeting

TOPIC: The Year So Far—and What's Next

SPEAKER: Marian Hiler, President,
Arlington Conservation
Council

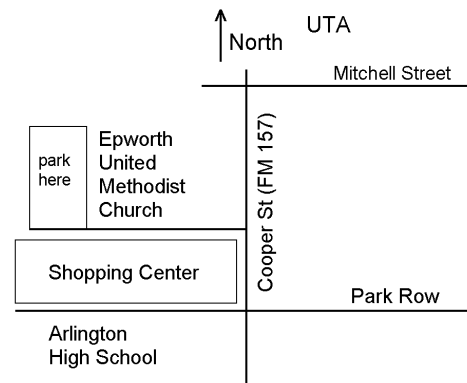
WHEN: Saturday, July 17, 10:00 am -
12:00 pm

WHERE: Epworth United Methodist
Church, 1400 S. Cooper St.

BRING: Good things to eat. We'll
provide drinks and assorted
utensils.

Special Meeting on Saturday, July 17

Our next general meeting will be something almost new, but not exactly. This will be our second mid-year brunch and social meeting. It will resemble our popular January meeting in most respects: You bring some good food, we provide drinks and utensils, and we all eat your food. President Hiler is putting together a nicely illustrated presentation that covers our activities this year, and she will look ahead at the rest of the year. We'll meet at our traditional brunch location, Epworth United Methodist Church (map below). Do join us to discuss what ACC has been doing and what you think we ought to be doing.



Did you make it to the last July brunch? Well, don't miss this one either. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas about our performance so far this year, and future activities you may wish to be involved in.

From the President

Marian Hiler



Recycling is Patriotic

The morning of July 3 was a great day for a summertime parade, on the low side of hot for July. All the

planning and hard work was now completed for ACC's first float entry ever in Arlington's annual Independence Day Parade. Sixteen ACC

recycling express. Even earlier that morning, at the inhuman hour of 5:30 am, John Darling was greeting, as well as a night owl could, cheery Donna Piercy and Al Vincent. Their task was to distribute recycling bins at strategic spots along the 2.5-mile parade route.

Our float's theme was "Please Recycle. Be litter-free". The three Rs – reduce,

reuse, and recycle—were followed in its construction. The only material that was not recycled after the parade was the fishing line that held our recyclables together. Several members helped on the Saturday morning before the parade to string the masses of red, white and blue cans and bottles that members had been saving. The day before the parade, Stephen Smith, Al Vincent, and Wayne

and Candy Halliburton toiled in the hot sun assembling all the pieces.

Julia Burgen was able to hitch a ride on two floats. Her first was the Star-Telegram's float honoring winners of its Star Awards. As 1996 Woman of the Year, Julia sat alongside another Woman of Year and ACC member Anita Garmon. The Star-Telegram float arrived back at the staging area just in time for Julia to don her ACC shirt and catch our float as it started its way, #125 on the parade roster.

Our 12 float riders and the 4 others walking alongside had a grand ole time waving at the crowds and chanting "ACC, recycle, recycle, recycle!"



Some of the parade watchers clapped, cheered and shouted "Yea for recycling!" as we passed. Stephen, walking by the float and picking up empty water bottles, worked the crowd, cajoling them to recycle. He was on a high now that it



supporters appeared well before the lead float started heading down to Pecan Street to proudly take their place on the



had all had come together. "Nothing is more gratifying than over a dozen people, dressed in tree-frog green t-shirts riding and walking through approximately 45,000 area citizens, extolling the virtues of recycling to supportive and vocal crowds," he enthused.

continued on page 3

THE POST OAK

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ACC in the Parade continued from page 2

After the parade was over, John, Donna, Al and the Smiths returned to the route to reclaim the recycling bins they had set out and returned them to the Darlings' residence. Gracie fed those last few volunteers who came to perform the remaining task.

John, Stephen, Jean-Marie, Al Vincent, Jo Ann Duman, Roy Milliner and I separated the trash from the recyclables, happily finding more of the latter—6 big bags of plastic bottles and 4 of aluminum cans in all.



ACC's 2004 Independence Day efforts were a resounding success. On our third year of supplying recycling bins along the parade route, more people are using them. The float won the third place trophy in the novice entry category. Thousands of people who had never heard of ACC got at least a peek at who we are as

their eyes were riveted on our colorful t-shirts. Many, many members played a part in this success.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the planning, assembly, staging, and riding on the ACC float and who worked the less glamorous recycling collection roles. Very special thanks go out to the following for their contributions: Philip Woods and Teresa Schlette, owners of Muscle Garage, for the use of Phil's flatbed trailer and their parking lot, without which we wouldn't have had a float; Christopher Naya, who generously pulled the float through the parade using his brand new 4 Runner; Amy Kresch, who arranged the discounted purchase of the outstanding reusable banners; the anonymous donor who paid for those banners; John Darling, who worked late into the night preparing the bins for distribution on parade day; and Stephen Smith, who deserves much of the credit for pulling the float project together, by initiating his ambitious idea of an ACC float, and for getting members actively involved and sponsors donating their resources all the way to our third place trophy.



Fear of Floating Stephen Smith

Nothing can explain the hope or describe the abject fear that accompanies the process of shepherding an idea through to completion. Such was the case with our float. The theme was to be ACC's belief in the principle of recycling, reusing, and reducing. Now comes the hope and fear part. It's not that ACC members need any encouragement to recycle properly; it's getting them to commit to bringing recyclables to a collection site so the materials can be magically transformed into a float. And also wondering if members had time to string the cans and bottles together for final assembly. Not to mention wondering if pleading by e-mail for members and friends to give up a large chunk of a holiday Saturday to ride on our float would produce enough volunteers to portray our commitment to this endeavor. Not to worry! ACC came through like troopers, in every regard. And being judged third place, novice division, cannot be discounted. The ACC Board of Directors wishes to thank everyone who participated in the planning, assembly, and staging of the effort. Special thanks to Phillip Woods for use of his trailer and property. It was a HUGE public relations success all around.



Wildscape Update

John Dycus



Those were eerie and disheartening aerial shots of the water rising at Six Flags — breathtaking, too, as the Bill Eastland honorary rapids tore through the north

edge of the park along Interstate 30. My dad used to say that you can't get too much rain in Texas, and on balance I think that's true. This is just nature

blackeyed susan. The tiny hummingbirds are invited to come up close to the pavilion to partake of the hummingbird bush, salvia coccinea, turk's cap, and standing cypress. To further enhance the pavilion area, Ann Trenton added evergreen white avens under the kiosk and beside the boardwalk. Dale Denton joined her in planting zexmenia, ruellia nudiflora, and dwarf crownsbeard beside the trail.

The hill opposite the bioswale changed from a weedy, Bermuda grass-invaded challenge into a lovely, multicolored garden that walkers, joggers, skaters, and bicyclers can enjoy as they move along the sidewalk. The team of volunteers transforming this area included Ellen Baskerville, Kay Sekio and others who weeded, dug out the Bermuda grass, planted more

wildflowers, and topped it off with a layer of compost.

At the end of the day, more than 250 additional wildflowers and other Texas native plants replaced the weeds and Bermuda grass, and the added layer of mulch dress it all up to create quite a transformation.

WEEKDAYS. Wednesday and Friday volunteers have propagated, rescued from bulldozers, and dug from their yards more than 3,000 native Texas perennials, groundcovers, grasses, shrubs and trees valued at near \$10,000. Tuesday volunteers are planting about one third of them in the Wildscape and reserving the other two thirds for the fall sale Sept. 25 and for the spring sale. Candy and Wayne Halliburton have lately expanded our trail improvement

by moving stone to define trail edges, sawing off tree limbs overhanging the trails, and wheelbarrowing more loads of compost than can be counted. Patty Cravens and Helle Calhoun planted all the bare spots to complete the meadow to pavilion trail.

Since we're ahead in the propagation department, our propagation volunteers have moved to the wildscape on Fridays to help get the plants they've grown into the ground. Jean Hiler, Hester Schwarzer and Pat Lovejoy planted blackeyed susan and coreopsis by the stone bridge near the recently planted military hibiscus, lizard tail, wild iris, obedient plant, false indigo and elderberry. Up above the creek, the overlook bench is one of the most popular places in the wildscape. Visitors get a splendid view of the creek embellished by all these water plants. Sit in the shade and enjoy the sound of the water trickling over the rocks below after the rains create a small waterfall.

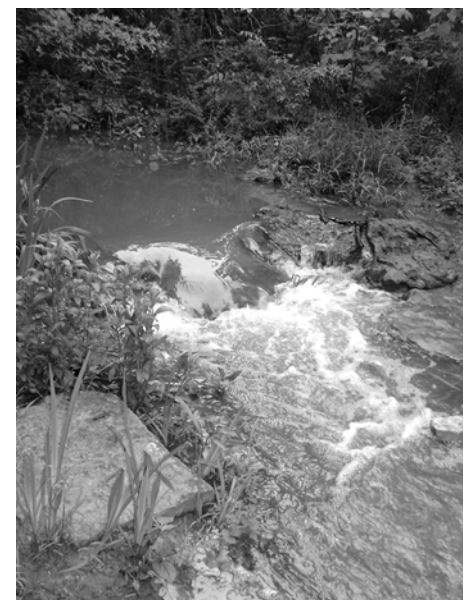
The continued marvelous rains and our new sprinkler system are speeding up the growth beautifully, so change is occurring much sooner than usual. Our greatest need is to get all these plants in the ground. Come help us enjoy the wonderful weather while planting more enticements for wildlife and visitors.



calling time. We've poisoned and burned and recklessly realigned the planet; occasionally, the planet says enough. Makes you proud of what's being done at the Molly Hollar Wildscape. Speaking of which ...

LAST WILDSCAPE WORKDAY,

Saturday, June 5: Our noble compost volunteers had a bin full all ready for us. Anne Alderfer, Mary Turner and John Darling loaded it into wheelbarrows, moved it to selected spots and applied as needed for magic results. Butterflies nectared and laid eggs on their favorite plants that volunteers planted close behind the pavilion. Now visitors can observe all this fascinating butterfly activity on the Lindheimer's senna, wild ageratum, butterfly weed, purple coneflower, frogfruit, passion vine, and



Our June Speaker

Eleanor Whitmore, Program Director, North Texas Branch of Texas Campaign for the Environment, addressed us last month on the environmental issues her organization tackles. She also gave us a look at an activist approach to publicizing problems that we generally haven't thought too much about. Eleanor has recently opened an Arlington office for TCE, and we look forward to many mutually beneficial activities. For information about the Texas Campaign for the Environment, visit texasenvironment.org.



We're Invited

ACC members are especially invited to the next meeting of the Arlington Organic Garden Club on Thursday July 29, 7:30 p.m. (7:00 p.m. social) at the Bob Duncan Community Center Garden Room, 2800 S. Center St. in Arlington.

The speaker will be Gary Gene Olp, President of GGO Architects in Dallas. Gary will talk on sustainable building design, how to update your existing residence into being energy efficient, and answer questions. Gary was a featured speaker at last fall's Sustainability Conference in Fredericksburg and is considered an expert on sustainable building practices. His website is www.ggoarchitects.com.

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

ACC at the Fair

Thanks once again to the Arlington Organic Garden Club, we had our display at the National Urban Living Garden Show on June 19. And thanks to everyone who, like Sandra Penney and Dale Denton below, took time to staff the booth.



Enter the Smart Yard Contest

Our city litter leader, Roni Crotty, called recently to encourage ACC members in particular to enter the city's Smart Yard Contest. It's intended to recognize Arlington residents who have incorporated environmentally friendly yard management and design into a smart yard using the concepts from Texas SmartScape and similar sources.

To be considered, photos (digital preferred) must be received by July 23 by Roni at crottyr@ci.arlington.tx.us, or regular photos can be mailed to Roni Crotty, PO Box 90231 MS 01-0220, Arlington, TX 76004-3231. Get more details on categories and rules at ci.arlington.tx.us/ or call Roni at 817-459-6587.

There may be surprise prizes, but the sure thing is good-looking yard signs that will draw attention to this vital approach to landscaping. It just seems right that ACC members would somehow dominate this contest. If we don't, it will be because we haven't bothered to enter.

Landfill Leasing?

On June 22 the Star-Telegram carried an article about progress toward leasing the city landfill to a private contractor. A consultant will be paid over \$100,000 to help develop a request for lease proposals. Our landfill currently makes money for the city, contains numerous environmental safeguards, and features a number of recycling opportunities. If a business takes over, will these things change for the worse? We must monitor the process and contact our Council members to be sure they know our opinions on this important issue.

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

PO Box 216

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Don't forget

Special July meeting

Saturday, July 17

10:00 am - 12:00

Don't miss it.

And bring food.

Be sure to visit us at

arlingtonconservationcouncil.org



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