

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 8

**OCTOBER
2004**

Volunteers Clean Up at Trinity Trash Bash



On September 18, ACC members and many other litter haters around the region collected trash of every description during the 13th annual Trinity Trash Bash. This event has a remarkable history: Over the years, almost 50,000 volunteers have picked up nearly a million pounds of trash along the Trinity and its tributaries.

This year ACC was assigned to clean up the stream in Bob Cooke Park, and the opportunity attracted members Jo and Bob Briggs, Julia Burgen, Grace and John Darling, Candy Halliburton, Marian Hiler, Jean-Marie and Stephen Smith, and Paula Thornton. They joined the city's Roni Crotty, Jay Falgout and other Parks staff, a number of eager children, and others in collecting an unwholesome variety of litter that had accumulated in and along the stream. The Parks guys had the most dramatic job, heaving a grappling hook into the water and hauling out drowned shopping carts.



October Meeting Everyone welcome

TOPIC: Curbside Recycling in Arlington

SPEAKER: Cheri Reynolds,
Recycling Representative,
Abitibi Consolidated

WHEN: Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 pm

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

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



From the President Marian Hiler



I was hopeful when I saw that one of the panelists for the recent Cowboys Stadium Forum presented by the Arlington League of Women Voters

would "present ecological considerations and concerns with Johnson Creek." Maybe this would give us a clearer picture of the impact a Cowboys Stadium would have on that sensitive area. But when Stephen Lawson from UTA's School of Architecture took his first round turn, he didn't even utter the words "Johnson" or "creek". It wasn't until one of the written questions submitted from the audience that the creek became a brief topic. The questioner asked if Johnson Creek would be made into a concrete channel as part of the stadium construction. Mr. Lawson initially responded, "Who knows? A Master Plan hasn't yet happened." And that is my very real concern. The Master Plan won't exist until after the opportunity to vote on the Stadium tax. He did say that Johnson Creek is protected by an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and that any land given away will require a city election. He

described this area of Johnson Creek as "a gorgeous piece of land" having a lot of potential as a featured amenity. City Council Member Ron Wright agreed that this area is regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Much of the land was bought with federal money, which therefore prevents it from being used for anything else. Mr. Wright also saw the creek as an amenity, with its location between the Ballpark and the proposed stadium making it ideal for a river walk. He did not elaborate on whether his vision of a river walk was restaurant- and boutique-laden or more of a commune with nature. Though I was glad to learn that Johnson Creek was under the governance of the Corps, I went away disappointed. I still don't have the impression that there has been a thought or concern that constructing the Cowboys' proposed new home alongside Johnson Creek may affect it.

A possible positive environmental effect of bringing the Cowboys to Arlington (I can't believe I actually wrote that) is another chance to get a commuter rail closer to central Arlington. Gordon Dickson, Star-Telegram staff writer, wrote in a September 26 article that Council of Governments officials said there may be a passenger rail line in the works, with a station on the east

side of Stadium Drive just southeast of Amerquest Field. A commuter rail could be running through Arlington. But there's a big IF—it is dependent on Arlington's contributing to the costs, meaning Arlington voters saying "Yes", not a word they say easily.

BRASS CRANES

They pose and preen,
This brazen pair
On my window ledge.

One stretches tall,
Its hose-like neck erect,
Its goal the air.

The other bows low,
Spreads its legs
And focuses its eye

As if flushing out
A hapless tadpole
From the water's edge.

On idle days I try
To think of them alive,
But miss the so-soft plumes,

The keen intensity,
The striving flap of wings
Against the morning sky.

©2004 John I. Blair

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

John Dycus, Marian Hiler, Jan Miller

Proofreader Grace Darling

Mailing Specialists Peg and Tom
Kennedy

Another Successful Garage Sale Marian Hiler

Thanks to everyone who helped, our October 2 garage sale was a successful fundraiser that cleared over \$400. Dale Denton deserves special thanks for providing his garage and half his furniture for the sale. Marianne Herrmann, Jennifer Hiler, and I priced items the evening before. On Saturday morning, Ann Knudsen got up at a time she didn't know existed to put out the 13 garage sale signs. Dale, Jo Ann Duman, Anita Garmon, and I dealt with the early-bird garage salers as we set up the tables. Marianne, Julia Burgen, Amy Kresch, and Bob and Jo Briggs also were there to help with the shoppers. And of course, thanks to everyone who gave us something to sell. We even had some customers who stayed long enough to show an interest in learning about ACC.



Smart Yard Contest

(Editor's note: Below are excerpts from Roni Crotty's announcement of the Smart Yard winners. Roni is a City Environmental Specialist who tirelessly promotes water issues and can't stop picking up litter at every opportunity.)

Thank you for your participation; the judges toiled long and hard to pick the winners. It wasn't easy because the entries were so great and everyone had incorporated SmartScape principles into their landscapes in so many wonderful and different ways.

I especially want to thank our judges, Dottie Woodson, Leslie Calderon, and Kevin Charles. I know it was not easy choosing the winners; each yard was outstanding in its own right. I also want to extend my gratitude to our partner in this contest, UTA. Craig Powell, I couldn't have done this without your department's help.

Your pictures and names will soon appear on the City's website to further educate the public about using the SmartScape ideas in their own landscapes. One goal of this contest was to help others realize that using native and adaptive plants can reward anyone with a lovely, colorful, less time-consuming, less chemical-consuming landscape that can attract birds and butterflies.

Again, thanks to everyone who helped me with this effort. And remember, Smart Yard 2005 will be here next summer.

There were 18 winners in the City of Arlington's 2004 Smart Yard Contest. And the yard signs go to:

Best Structure - Seth Ressler
 Best Woodland - Molly Hollar
 Best Wildlife Friendly - Cindy Hollar
 Best Before and After - Taylor Stephens-Parker
 Biggest Compost Pile- Gailon Hardin
 Best Use of Ornamental Grasses - Marian Hiler
 Best Visually Appealing - Grace Darling
 Prettiest Compost Pile - John Darling (I know, only one entry per household, but John was concerned that Grace didn't enter pictures of his compost piles.
 But they still only get one sign.)

Best Bird Friendly - Jan Miller
 Best Front Yard - Hugh Ross
 Best Overall in Design - Mary Neil Hubbard
 Best Photo - Dick Schoech
 Best Side Yard - Clif Ellis
 Best No Mowing Required - Ann Trenton
 Best Yard Art - Bob Ressler
 Best New Yard - Jacki White
 Best Ground Cover - Thanet and Tom Flint
 Best Butterfly Friendly - Ann Jordan



*Above, Marian Hiler
 Below, Cindy Hollar*



Molly Hollar



*Above, Jan Miller
 Below, John Darling*



Grace Darling



Wildscape Update John Dycus



What a wonderful day! This year's fall plant sale was the most successful ever, thanks to the whole-hearted efforts of exceptional volunteers. The Molly

Hollar Wildscape crowd's year of propagating native plants on Wednesday and Friday mornings reached its zenith with sales exceeding \$3,000.

The sales committee of Pat Lovejoy, Gailon Hardin and Taylor Stephens-Parker pulled off the smoothest, shortest and best sale to date. Publicity was fantastic, thanks to Gailon and dedicated helpers. O.K. Carter devoted a long column in the Star-Telegram on giving your yard some "creature comfort." The sodfather, Howard Garrett, offered a huge plug on his radio show, and volunteers distributed flyers far and wide.

Steve Smith, Dale Denton, Pat Lovejoy, Gailon Hardin, Charlie Shiner, Hester Schwarzer and Jennifer Hiler provided pickups, trailers and vans to haul thousands of native plants to the sales site. By 12:30 the parking lot was full, with crowds of people looking for the plants on their list. Sales volunteers could hardly get tickets written up fast enough, as a line stretched out at the money table presided over by Jean-Marie Smith and Jan Miller. Jan procured and sold a record number of books. Countless wildscape and native plant informative handouts she collected were given away.

John Snowden, Henry Turner and Steve Smith, enlisted to offer information on butterflies, grasses, compost, etc., rose to the occasion by helping

customers find plants and writing tickets while answering questions. There were no off times, only steady customers, until the close at 5, evidence of a broader outreach. Some folks came from as far away as Lewisville. Could it be that wildscapes are catching on?

All along, behind the scenes, propagation volunteers have been toiling at the greenhouse to make the sale possible. Two who rarely miss working two mornings a week are Jean Hiler and



Hester Schwarzer. They also plant at the wildscape and do whatever else needs to be done. Glenn Troutman, Arlington Parks Board member and president of WeCAN, is a regular on Wednesdays at the greenhouse, moving sacks of soil, loading and moving plants around and generally making himself the handiest of volunteers.

Back at the wildscape on Tuesday mornings, regulars Anne Alderfer, Devanie Fergus, Ann Trenton and Jan Stout are planting, mulching, weeding and doing other maintenance to get the plants established. Other members of ACC, the Native Plant Society, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and

Master Composters provide assistance Tuesday mornings and on first-Saturday workdays, with park passersby sometimes pitching in. Occasionally, even members of the Fire Department who regularly walk and jog in the park help out.

Without the support of the Arlington Parks Department, especially Martin Sanchez (in charge of Veterans Park) and Jay Falgout (official liaison to the Parks Department), we wouldn't exist. Martin is supremely accommodating

and helpful, and Jay facilitates irrigation, provides decomposed granite for trail improvement or just hears of other needs and responds. At the Parks Department greenhouse, Heather Dowell and Lucy King, with their ready smiles and friendly encouragement, go out of their way to make things run smoothly.

Hats off and a huge thanks to all these supporters and super volunteers who work together to make this little 3-acres-plus slice of heaven happen.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday mornings, 9–noon at the Molly Hollar Wildscape in Veterans Park

Wednesday mornings, 9–noon at the greenhouse in Randol Mill Park

Friday mornings, 9–noon at the greenhouse

First Saturday morning of the month (second Saturday on a holiday weekend), 8–noon at the wildscape.

Bring gloves, trowels, shovels, etc. Water and snacks are provided. Contact Molly —mahollar@earthlink.net, home (817) 860-5580, cell (817) 319-6924—if you can help.

Workday Scheduled for New York Avenue Blackland Prairie



Saturday, October 23 We will be removing woody species and giant ragweed. Bring hand tools and gloves. Long sleeves and pants are helpful. Water will be provided. Thanks to Arlington Parks & Recreation Department for providing a work crew to assist us with power tools. To ensure that we'll make it worthwhile for the city crew, please RSVP to Jan Miller (817/483-0579) by Wednesday, October 20.

Community Garden News

On September 20, at the second meeting of the informal steering committee, the group voted to name itself Community Gardens of Arlington (CGA), and it is working toward a starting date of spring '05 at a site in Bob Cooke Park on New York Avenue in east Arlington. Working closely with the Parks Department, we plan to involve many groups and individuals in hopes of building a community around the garden.

Subcommittees were formed at the meeting to accomplish various duties: site selection and development, bylaws and regulations, marketing and education, and funding. Others will be added as needed.

The next steering committee meeting will be held at the Parks Department building at 717 N Main at 7:00 pm on Monday, Oct 18. If you are interested in participating in this project at any level, contact Stephen Smith at 817-275-7469 or buggy188@juno.com.



Bird Walk at Village Creek Drying Beds on November 6

The drying beds are locally famous as one of the best birding spots in Arlington (almost). Saturday, November 6, should be a great time of year to see a number of species on a bird walk with Sonny Hines. The group will meet at the park across from the drying beds entrance at about 9:15. Call 817-737-4944 by November 4 to RSVP.



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

Wildscape books for sale

Butterfly Gardening for the South/Ajilvsgi - \$27 (\$38 retail)

Native Texas Plants/Wasowski - \$25 (\$35 retail)

Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife - \$18 (\$24.95 retail)

Great gifts! the books will be available at ACC meetings, or call Jan at 817/483-0579 or Molly at 817/860-5580.

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.

Arlington Conservation Council Officers and Board of Directors

President Marian Hiler 277-3998

memhome@sbcglobal.net

First Vice President Stephen Smith 275-7469

buggy188@juno.com

Second 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

Dale Denton

Jo Ann Duman

Marianne Herrmann

Sandra Lane

Jan Miller

Al Vincent

Molly Hollar

THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council

PO Box 216

Arlington, TX 76004-0216

Don't forget!

Cheri Reynolds

Curbside Recycling in Arlington

October 13

7:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

Be sure to visit us at

arlingtonconservationcouncil.org



Printed on recycled paper