

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 10

**DECEMBER
2004**

December Meeting
Everyone welcome

TOPIC: Anything You'd Like

SPEAKER: You

WHEN: December 8, 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.

**Thanks from
the Park Lady** Julia Burgen

To all my friends,
Bouquets of woodland violets and prairie celestials to all of
you who worked on and supported the effort to get the
Johnson Creek Confluence area named for me. I had not a
clue that this was in the works until Sept. 28, when it was
reported on in the afternoon city council session! I've been told
that the planning began a year ago.

It is a tremendous honor to have a park named for me, and
to know that so many of you had direct, persistent efforts to
make it happen. It is very humbling. I can't imagine all of the
work and patience and effort that went into this. For it to be
along Johnson Creek in the heart of the city means so much.

Now we need to have some field trips to the area, and
especially to start lists of the flora and fauna. John Darling
already can add great-horned owls, red-tailed hawks and
probably other birds.

According to
Marian Hiler, Julia
Burgen Park on the
Johnson Creek
Greenway is a 69-
acre park, presently
undeveloped, that is
generally bound by
E. Second Street on
the north, S. Collins
Street on the east,
Park Row on the
south, and S. Pecan

Street on the west. The park is currently slated to open in late
2005. This park land is part of the Army Corps of Engineers'
flood damage reduction plan funded from federal and local
funds totaling nearly \$27 million, and was created by the
purchase of over 140 flood-prone homes. The park will include
passive recreational facilities such as park benches, picnic
tables, a small pavilion, a small parking lot, and a concrete
multi-use trail that will eventually connect with trails to UTA,
downtown and the entertainment district. The site development
will also include the introduction of native plant materials in
strategic locations along the creek, the purpose of which is to
enhance native wildlife habitat and stabilize the creek.

Thanks to all of you who attended City Council on October
12 when the naming was voted on. Thanks also to everyone
who sent emails and cards. See you at a creek cleanup!



From the President

Marian Hiler



It's that time of year when top ten lists are cropping up all over the place. Well, here's my twist on that—the Top 10 Environmentally Significant Effects

on Arlington's Natural Resources.

The Good

- **The Arlington Parks & Recreation Department:** We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented staff, from its director Pete Jamieson on down, who keep on keepin' on even as the city struggles through an era of budget challenges and constraints.
- **The Parks & Recreation Board's** conscientious job in reviewing the 3 proposal packages for renaming Confluence Park. Of course, we knew Julia Burgen was the only real choice, but the Board's review committee took their responsibility seriously and made their recommendation according to the naming guidelines.
- **The Southwest Nature Preserve** is still in the realm of possibility: There is a gorgeous 60-acre area off

Bowman Springs and Interstate 20 that has been platted for development. The Trust for Public Lands has agreed to purchase the property temporarily on condition that its acquisition will be part of the May 2005 bond election. The Parks Bond Committee recently voted to include it and it now awaits the city council's approval.

- **The 10-year anniversary of the Molly Hollar Wildscape:** This 3.4-acre area has grown both in size and recognition since its creation a decade ago. Tens of thousands of volunteer hours have been spent making this a wonderful example of how to do it right when it comes to landscaping.
- **ACC members:** People who see the importance of keeping such an organization alive by joining. In particular, the many volunteers who were able to make time to participate in the various projects and events throughout the year.
- **A board of directors** dedicated to carrying out the ACC mission.
- **A newsletter editor** who resists, somewhat, his strong temptation to publish unflattering pictures of me. (Okay, granted that's really my own personal environment.)

Let's Hope It Won't Be Bad

- **The leasing of the City's landfill:** Will we continue to have the exemplary recycling program we have become accustomed to once the landfill is privatized? This and many other questions remain about the proposed lease. Stay tuned.
- **The future Cowboy Stadium** along Johnson Creek: It will take more than hope to keep a nearby major league stadium and all the expected development from having an adverse impact on the natural habitat along Johnson Creek. We will be voicing our concerns and suggestions.

The Ugly

- **Fannin Farm fiasco:** No matter where the responsibility lies, a virgin habitat along Sublett Branch creek was unfortunately lost due to the relocation of a pipeline in South Arlington by Citgo Petroleum Corporation at the request of land developer Ralph Shelton. An area a quarter-mile long and about 20 yards wide was carved from the Cross Timbers post oaks, blackjack oaks and red cedars near the creek in an area that is part of a future linear park.

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

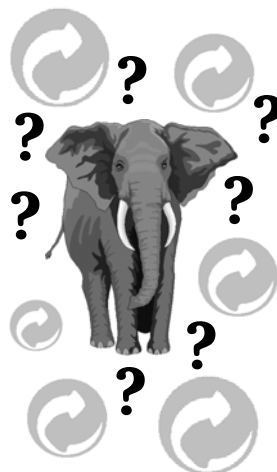
Contributors

John Dycus, Marian Hiler, Jan Miller

Proofreader Grace Darling

Mailing Specialists Peg and Tom Kennedy

Green Elephant Gift Exchange



Here's what President Marian said last year about our first Holiday Social. It turned out to be very popular, and we hope you will make time to attend this year.

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 for another—once.



Community Garden News

The next meeting of the steering committee will be on Monday, December 6, 7:00 pm, at Hugh Smith Recreation Center, 1815 New York Avenue. We will continue to lay the foundation for establishing and maintaining Arlington's first public organic garden and we welcome your help.

Our November Speaker

We're indebted to our speaker at the November meeting, David H. Behm, Executive Director of the Connemara Conservancy Foundation. David's topic was "Preserving Open Space on Private Lands." He gave us an animated overview of the very businesslike processes that individual landowners can engage in to ensure the preservation of their property.



Renew Now—All Memberships Expire at Year's End

We can't do a thing without you, but we had to raise the dues anyway, just to keep up with costs, mostly for our newsletter, which is one of our best means of getting the word out and increasing visibility for ACC. Please renew today.

Membership categories are:

Students - \$12
Individual/Family - \$24
Supporting - \$36
Sponsors - \$100

Please make your check payable to ACC and mail it to:

ACC
PO Box 216
Arlington TX 76004-0216



Our Unsung Heroes

We probably don't think enough about the people who quietly work behind the scenes to make things happen. Here's a small attempt at overdue recognition: Tom Kennedy, Peg Kennedy, and Marguerite Caesar fold our newsletter each month, and the Kennedys drive all over town to leave copies at such places as libraries, nurseries, and coffeeshops. Thank you from all of us.

Another Yard in Trouble

Here we go again. On November 13, an article in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram by Bill Teeter had this headline: "Unconventional landscape turns into embattled ground." Can you guess the rest? A homeowner in Saginaw spent over \$7000 to install a native plant landscape and is now being sued by members of the Courts of Willow Creek Homeowners Association who are threatening to foreclose on his home. By chance, Saginaw bills itself as "A City on the Right Track." This must mean that our maverick homeowner will prevail in court. Or maybe not. Suppose it would help if some of us drove over and lent him our Smart Yard signs? Or should we make up some appropriate yard signs for the homeowners association?



A touch of wildscape at Molly Hollar's house. Good thing it's not in Saginaw.

Wildscape Update

John Dycus



Bird calls sprang from the children as they left Julia Burgen's station at the bird kiosk at the Molly Hollar Wildscape. In another area, children

laughed as they played the vigorous environmental game of "Oh, Deer" with Stephen Smith and Al Vincent overseeing.



At the pavilion, Hester Schwarzer and Jean-Marie Smith guided young artists through a depiction of orange mushrooms, green compost enclosures and a dazzling array of many-colored butterflies and red winged creatures. The drawings illustrated written descriptions of the students' experiences at the wildscape on this beautiful fall morning, November 9.



Mosquito fish, orange stinkhorn mushrooms, migrating Monarch butterflies, caterpillars, a beetle, "daddy longlegs," a bunny, a turtle and a small green snake all caught the attention of groups touring the wildscape with guide Anne Alderfer. Over in the bins, composter John Darling charmed the

children with his wit. In their letters they remembered him as "the funny man."

Welcome to the fourth "Walk on the Wild Side," a running, jumping, squeal-



ing and most appealing happening for 84 children comprising the entire elementary grades of the Montessori Academy on Arkansas Lane just east of Veterans Park. Teachers and numerous parents accompanied the enthusiastic kids, many of whom were not nearly ready to leave.

In a follow-up evaluation meeting, they requested a spring field trip, set for April 12, during which they want to



volunteer to work in the wildscape. The academy's gracious parent contact, Molly Gamades, and enthusiastic teacher Takako Kusayanagi put together a book of the children's "thank you" letters and photos. Anne Knudsen contributed pictures that she took.

Wimbish Elementary has also requested a spring Walk on the Wild Side. Recently, Carrie Donovan's class rolled clay seedballs containing wild-

flower seed under Stephen Smith's direction. The children will toss the seedballs during their spring field trip.

These walks have become a popular outreach with the goal of creating a love of nature in children who will hopefully grow into environmentally concerned adults. Jean-Marie and Stephen Smith schedule the activities, enlist the volunteers and magically make all of these children, adults and rotating activities mesh according to Jean-



Marie's unbelievable color-coded charts. The time is truly a marvel of planning and organization.

And not all that wild, come to think of it. More like wonderful.



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

NOTE: No wildscape or greenhouse work from Dec 20 through Jan 3.

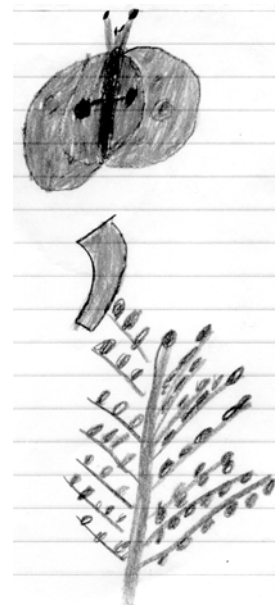
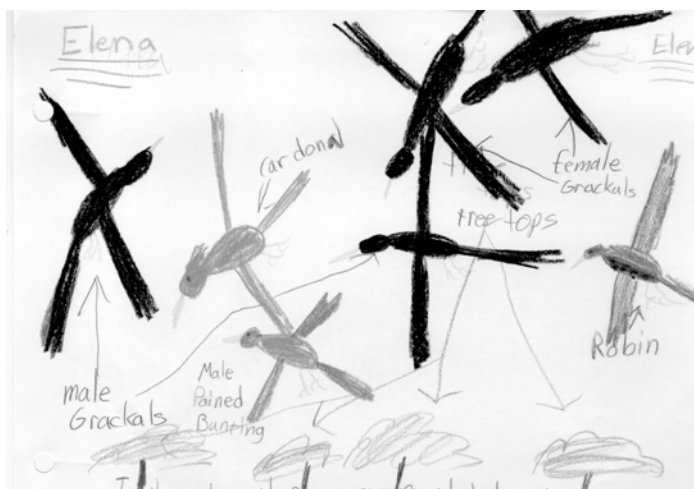
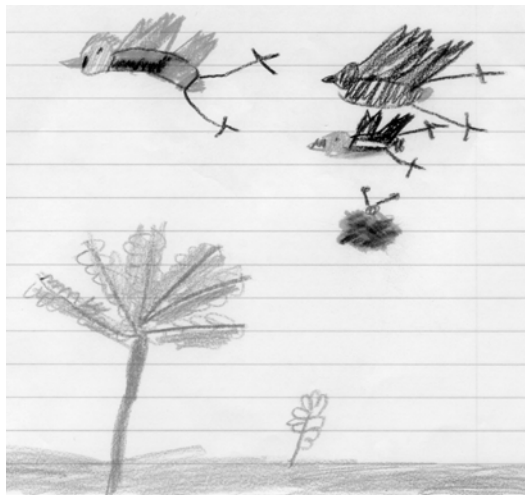
Work resumes Jan 4.

Next Saturday Workday January 8, 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.

Art from the Wildside

Thanks to the teachers at the Montessori Academy, here's a look at a Veterans Park we may not have seen before:



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/Family \$24.00

Address _____

Student \$12.00

Supporting \$36.00

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Sponsor \$100.00

E-mail _____

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!

Our 2nd Holiday Social
and Green Elephant
Gift Exchange

December 8

7:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

Be sure to visit us at

arlingtonconservationcouncil.org



Printed on recycled paper