

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 6

**SEPTEMBER
2005**

Landscape Ordinance Passes

We made it. Just before a new state law would have weakened our old landscape ordinance, Arlington's city council members acted decisively to expand and strengthen protection for our urban forest.

Former ACC President Julia Burgen has been a force in this fight from the very beginning. As the council debated the final version of the new ordinance, she sent each member a copy of a Star-Telegram editorial from March 16, 1991, back when we had no tree ordinance at all. The editorial is still relevant, so here it is (*reprinted with permission from the Arlington Star-Telegram*):

Of poems and trees

And of ordinances that would preserve

As Joyce Kilmer told us, only God can make a tree.
But mankind can—and does—take them down.
When we do, the loss is ours.

In Arlington, Julia Burgen is trying to change that. She is attempting to save these poems, as Kilmer put it. If she is successful, the gain will be ours and it will be as widespread as it is longstanding.

In the name of progress, we bulldoze, chop, saw, hack away the trees. We pave over them. And even when we pave around them, thinking that will save them, in time they often die.

When we do that, we rob ourselves. We take away the freely given beauty of them, we take away their ability to filter—for us—the dirty air we cause.

Burgen sees what is happening to the trees, some of them with us a century or so, and works to rescue them. More of us must join her in that effort.

An ordinance has been suggested as a way to save the trees. Some cities have them. Some require that permission be obtained before a tree is removed, that destroyed trees be replaced, that a designated amount of money be spent each year on trees.

In Arlington and in every city we must listen to the Julia Burgens among us, for the message they bring is one of life itself—for the trees and for us—and we cannot go on, limb by limb, project by project, thoughtless step by thoughtless step, snuffing that life away.

September Meeting

TOPIC: Johnson Creek

SPEAKER: Ron Wright, Arlington City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem

WHEN: Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 pm

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

NOTE: Mr Wright has been involved with plans for the Cowboys stadium and we anticipate learning how the proposed construction will affect Johnson Creek.

**Bring Something
for the Raffle!**

continued on page 3

From the President

Wayne Halliburton

At the July ACC general meeting, I was reminded that a midyear review was a tradition I had omitted, so I will take some space here to mention some of the ongoing and special activities we have participated in this year.

Ongoing, of course, is the work at the Molly Hollar Wildscape in Veterans Park and the Randol Mill Park greenhouse that provides the plants for that effort. Veterans Park is also home to the newly renovated compost site, now with interpretive signs and active demonstration and production areas. Soon to begin fall activities are the New York Avenue Blackland Prairie, making good restoration progress, and the first community gardens project.

Our monthly meetings are also a source of pride, with Jo Ann Duman inviting timely guests to present programs ranging from plants to clean air, and of course Mayor Cluck on the Cowboys stadium. Pete Jamieson, head of the Parks Department was also a special guest, informing us about a wide variety of parks issues.

And of course, our Web site and Yahoo group are active and up to date,

with news of the day and coming events.

We also participated in the Arlington Litter Challenge (first place in our category again, and also most total bags overall), the UTA Earth Day, March for Parks, the Arlington Community Fair, the Arlington Organic Garden Clubs' Urban Living Garden Show, the Wimbish Elementary Science Night, the 4th of July parade, and contributed to a successful spring plant sale.

In local politics, it has been a huge year for ACC participation. We weighed in on the landfill issue, helped garner support for the Arlington Parks Bond vote, hope to be there for the birth of the Arlington Citizens Environmental Committee, are monitoring plans for the Cowboys stadium and its effect on Johnson Creek, and worked extremely hard (along with LWV, SWAT, MPAC, and others) on the Arlington tree ordinance.

As for a look ahead, we will continue our efforts at the wildscape, the greenhouse, the compost site, the blackland prairie, the community gardens, and will host a fall plant sale. We have also promised our support in building a

nature trail at the Martin Luther King Jr Sports Center, and will assist in cleanup of the new Southwest Nature Preserve. We are also committed to bringing relevant and timely programming to our monthly meetings (thanks, Jo Ann!), continue our involvement with the Citizen's Environmental Committee and in efforts to preserve and protect Johnson Creek. I'm sure that more local environmental issues will also make their appearance, and we will add our voice to the chorus of preservation and conservation. Look to the Yahoo group and the Web site for the latest updates on coming events.

On a side note, congratulations are due to Blue Skies Alliance and Downwinders at Risk for their recent settlements with the Holcim and TXI cement kilns. Great job!

Last, I want to publicly thank Unity Church for their generous financial contribution to our organization, and also thank each of our members and board for their support and continued hard work. We have had a year of great participation, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

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, Grace Darling, John Dycus,
Wayne Halliburton

Proofreader Grace Darling

Mailing Specialists Peg and Tom Kennedy

Thanks to Our August Speaker

Stacy Baldwin, City of Arlington Urban Forestry Land Manager, gave us the latest information on new wildlife signs for parks and a program to install bat houses and bird boxes in selected locations. Stacy was ably assisted by Dale West, Lead Landscape Technician, Medians and Rights of Way. She's done a lot of work to ensure that we get the best kind of bat houses, and we can look forward to seeing more of the beneficial mammals in the near future.



Keep Watching Your Watering

From June 1 through September 30, no watering is permitted from 10:00 am–6:00 pm except for hand watering and soaker hoses. It's a good thing we like native plants.

Picnic in the Park

On July 16th, ACC held its monthly meeting in the main pavilion at Veterans Park. Besides a fine showing (in both people and food) from ACC, representatives from Arlington Master Composters, the Sierra Club, Arlington Organic Garden Club, the community gardeners, and a host of volunteers from the Wildscape were in attendance. After great food, a round of speeches and introductions, tours of the Wildscape and the newly renovated Compost Demonstration Site were available. Thanks to one and all for your food, drink, and participation.



Water Bill Benefit

City Council Member Sheri Capehart recently told us to start watching our water bills for an insert that will give us the opportunity to make a contribution each month to a favorite cause of our choice. They include Care and Share (helps those on limited incomes pay their water bill), city forestry fund (for replacing trees in medians), city parks, libraries, or public art.

Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 15: "Green by Design: BRIT's Opportunity to Lead" John D. Spengler, PhD 7:00 pm, Leonhardt Auditorium, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Free. Dr. Spengler will present information from his research that includes the integration of knowledge about indoor and outdoor air pollution as well as other risk factors into the design of housing, building and communities.

For more information, contact BRIT, 817-332-4441, or www.brit.org.

Sept. 20: "Conservation Subdivision Design" Randall Arendt 5:30-7:00 pm \$5 members, \$10 non-members, Free to UTA students with valid ID, UTA School of Architecture main auditorium (2nd floor), 601 West Nedderman Dr. This workshop session presents a practical, easy-to-use technique that enables developers and local officials to work together to accomplish their different objectives, namely the construction of full-density residential subdivisions (developers' goal) in such a way that helps to build a community-wide network of permanent conservation land (officials' goal).

Landscape Ordinance *continued from page 1*

Julia reminisced about the long struggle: "I hoped that finding the old editorial was a good omen for the coming council vote. The Star-Telegram's editorials and O.K. Carter's columns in the last two months have been very supportive and undoubtedly influential.

Back in 1991 I was 56 and now I'm 71. That's a long time of persistence. Yet success never comes without the commitment and efforts of so many. The coalition of interests during the last four months on the residential tree ordinance was outstanding—League of Women Voters of Arlington, ACC, WeCAN, SWAT, and MPAC. You don't fully know the magnitude of what you have accomplished. So many have worked on the issue and our success is reason to celebrate. May you always have shade on Texas' summer days."

Joanne Stewart, another ACC stalwart, seemed to attend every possible meeting on the ordinance and did a wonderful job of keeping everyone informed. After the vote she had a few thoughts: "The tree ordinance passed tonight unanimously. There was one stipulation that requires a task force to be assembled by October to take a look at all city ordinances to make certain that they are not in conflict with one another when it comes to tree protection.

Thanks to everyone who participated and made contributions of ideas, time, effort, the writing of emails, attending meetings, and formulating papers to present to City Council. It was the combined effort of many that helped to bring the Residential Preservation Tree Ordinance into being."

Wildscape Update

John Dycus



Look this way, Mallard, and smile. Molly Hollar has a new digital camera, and she wants to make you a star.

A major goal of the wildscape is to educate the public on how native plants can save 75 percent in water and maintenance while attracting wildlife. It's a story oft told in pictures, and the best ones submitted will go in the kiosks and the mobile displays and books used in wildscape presentations.

Molly's out there shooting, and she challenges you to do the same. "Now I can catch all the wildflowers at their 'peak of bloom' and occasionally get a

photo of a butterfly, squirrel or other quick-moving wildlife if I can get my camera out of its holder on my belt in time," she says. "Plants are much easier to photograph since they don't move, but getting good pictures of wildlife is something else."

Loreen Smith has been getting good pictures of a lot of things for years. Formerly a fashion designer and now a cardiac nurse, she discovered Veterans Park some years ago on a church picnic and started using it as a backdrop for portrait photography. She drives 25 miles from her home to enjoy the peace and quiet while listening to the birds. And taking their picture.

Loreen was strolling the wildscape one morning, and before she realized — you know what happened; we've all been there — she was happily ensnared in the Molly Hollar Earth Force Vortex. Soon she was offering her photos for use in the kiosks and books and



planning to create gift cards to be hawked at the plant sale benefiting the wildscape.

Emboldened by her good fortune, Molly next appealed to longtime wildscape fan John Davis, an urban biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, for the great photos of wildlife he has taken, plus a few from the TPW archives. She remembered where excellent photos taken by Julia Burgen and Marian Hiler and Anne Alderfer had been filed away. Jan Miller has a fine shot of a greensnake that she'll add to the collection.

You take pictures? Prove it. Let's see them. E-mail those wildscape flora and fauna photos to mahollar@earthlink.net. We'll immortalize you and your subjects.

Just like Mr. Mallard.



Texas Odds and Green Ends Grace Darling

The news is both good and bad for those who care about the environment in Arlington. First the bad news, about three laws that went into effect Sept. 1.

- **SB 574** allows developers to avoid some city restrictions, such as tree preservation and landscaping requirements, if they owned the property prior to when the new rules went into effect. The legislation exempts developers from impact fee increases and lets them resurrect projects for which local permits have expired. If a developer is grandfathered, for instance, he has locked in the amount of storm-water runoff impact fees, sewer/water impact fees and other such assessments the city may impose.

- **SB 1297** makes it legal to pour used motor oil into state waters as long as the oil in the waste stream is less than 15 parts per million.

- **HB 3461** (companion bill to **SB 1406**) requires a city to comply with certain procedures prior to imposing a moratorium on commercial development, including (1) notice and hearing prior to adopting the moratorium; and (2) imposing the moratorium only if there is a need to prevent a shortage of public facilities.

These are just a few of the 82 bills that Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria, introduced during this session of the Legislature.

By the way, Sen. Armbrister is the current chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources – so, relax.

- Closer to home, Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, introduced **SB 848**, which prohibits cities from applying new development requirements to a developer after a permit application, plat, development plan, etc., is filed. SB 848 defines a permit as “filed” on the day that an application is delivered to the correct regulatory agency, or on the day that an application is sent, not delivered, through certified mail. This one, too, went into effect in September.

- At the federal level, **HR 2864** has been filed as an amendment to the Water Resources Development Act of 2005 and deals specifically with Johnson Creek, Sec. 4107. The resolution asks the Army Corps of Engineers to reevaluate the creek restoration project for flood damage reduction and erosion control and to develop alternatives to the environmental restoration element of the project. It directs the corps of engineers to “review plans and designs developed by non-federal interests and ... [to] use such plans and designs to the extent ... [they] are consistent with Federal standards.” In addition, the non-federal interests (say, the Dallas Cowboys) shall be credited for the cost of the studies and of any project carried out as a result of such studies.

associated with acquiring land for the stadium facilities were grossly underestimated. Since the city’s share is capped at \$325 million, the added costs will be borne by the Cowboys. Sadly, there is no room for innovative design on a tight budget.

- At a recent weekly luncheon of Great Southwest Rotary, Graham Associates VP Jeff Williams spoke of three new bridges across I-30, of lowering the freeway and having vertical brick walls instead of grass-covered embankments, of adding two lanes in either direction, all for dealing with increased traffic volume, much of it generated by the stadium. The gist of the plan was “let’s build more roads to accommodate more vehicles.” After his presentation (he ran out of time during it), he mentioned plans for one Trinity Railway Express stop near North Collins Street and maybe another closer in, expecting increased use of the circulating trolley system.

Good news? Actually, no. But this is:

- City staff are working on a blueprint for a Citizens Environmental Committee to advise our elected officials on matters pertaining to air and water quality, solid waste disposal and recycling, energy saving, green building and pollution control. If approved by the Municipal Policy Committee, the proposal could go before the City Council in early September and go into effect by the start of the next fiscal year Oct. 1.

Nine citizen members will be appointed to this committee. Anyone who is not already serving on another city board or commission is eligible. If you’d like to serve, contact your council representative.

- The residential tree preservation ordinance passed unanimously on second vote. Congratulations to everyone who studied the issues, attended sessions and wrote city officials to ensure a greener future for Arlington.

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

- In his State of the City address to the League of Women Voters of Arlington, Mayor Bob Cluck confirmed that the proposed Cowboys stadium is not being designed as a sustainable building, though it may incorporate one or two green features. It seems that the property buyout and other costs

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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

How did you hear about us? _____

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

Please circle membership category.

Individual/Family \$24.00

Student \$12.00

Supporting \$36.00

Sponsor \$100.00

Arlington Conservation Council Officers and Board of Directors

Co-Presidents Wayne and Candy Halliburton
817-274-1787 canerway@sbcglobal.net

First Vice President Jo Ann Duman
817-516-7453 jduman@juno.com

Second Vice President Roy Miliner
226-0203 rlmiliner@comcast.net

Treasurer Marian Hiler 657-7237
mernhome@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Jo Briggs 460-8483

Editor John Darling 274-1077
1darling@sbcglobal.net

Board Members

Dale Denton
Jo Ann Duman
Marianne Herrmann
Molly Hollar

Jan Miller
Donna Piercy
Jean-Marie Smith
Stephen Smith

THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
PO Box 216
Arlington, TX 76004-0216

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't forget!

Wednesday, September 14

Ron Wright,
Arlington City Council
Johnson Creek

Be sure to visit us at
arlingtonconservationcouncil.org



Printed on recycled paper.