

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 5

MAY 2009

**Note
Special Meeting Place:
West Police Station**

www.arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

May Meeting

**Air Emissions
from Oil and Gas Development
in the Barnett Shale
and the Rest of Texas**

**Dr Al Armendariz,
Research Associate Professor,
Department of Environmental
and Civil Engineering,
Southern Methodist University**

May 13, 7:00 pm

**West Police Station
2060 W Green Oaks Blvd**

Bits & Pieces

Our Harmless Version of a Puff Adder

It hisses, it rattles its tail, it puffs itself up, and finally it rolls over and plays dead. Must be our most personable snake, the eastern hognose. And to top it off, this often beautifully marked snake eats mostly toads, creatures that most predators find extremely distasteful.



Today's Inspirational Moment

Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist.

Kenneth Boulding



Think Mink

We almost never see them, but there must be mink around, especially along our larger streams where they eat just about anything they can catch. And it's about time for mink babies to be born; each one will weigh a little more than a nickel, and in only five months they will be about the size of a house cat.

Say Good Bye — But Don't Delay

Here's a post oak not far from the wildscape that has been spared by developers. Note the care taken to lower the grade almost to the trunk. Unfortunately, it's a textbook example of how to kill a tree in slow motion.

There might have been a good intention here, but you have to wonder who thought this would work.



From the President John Darling



A lot of us struggled to do our environmental bit in yet another frantic April. Even I tried to give the impression of presidential exertion,

hoping to fool enough of the overactive members to get by. I didn't quite emerge from April unblemished, though.

The month was almost over when I found myself agreeing to be on a panel at UTA that was concerned with parking lots, specifically the latest one planned to take up slack when spaces will be lost by construction of a special events center.

It was a classic tree-hugger situation: I came in with negative feelings about the subject and one basic question that I somehow never managed to ask. That is, "Have you seriously considered every other alternative to another parking lot?"

The UTA person in charge arrived with a comprehensive chart of parking

lot spaces and how they will change as construction occurs and the campus acquires more and more parking garages. Eventually, buildings, including parking garages, will pretty much take the place of UTA's vast lots.

A third panel member discussed various ways to make parking lots green, and this lot is already planned to include a couple: a buffer near a house as well as areas of permeable paving.

I did muddy my (largely subjective) position by saying that the land in question was not prime habitat — basically grass with no post oaks, but with some nice red oaks, pecans, and hackberries. And I noted the apparently large number of feral cats that I thought might be affecting the birds and rodents living there. Some recent reading makes me wonder how large that effect might be. At this point, I really don't know.

Why did this seem like a classic situation? That's easy on the face of it:

Big organization wants a parking lot while the little guys look around and see trees dropping like flies. Big guys have charts and master plans while tree huggers mostly have feelings, specifically feelings that we just can't continue with business as usual. However, it's more than feelings now that serious tree people can assign dollar values to environmental services provided by trees and other natural features (page 7).

I left the panel knowing that I hadn't begun to make any sort of case against the new lot. I'm not sure why; maybe it was the fact that I followed the hard information. Before I opened my mouth, that had convinced me that this was no whim, that the authorities clearly saw a valid case for another lot. That's a terrible position for an adversary. Temporarily blinded by all that information, I failed to speak clearly while squashing the pain I will surely feel when the bulldozers start to roll.

THE POST OAK

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

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

Contributors

John Dycus, Molly Hollar, Jan Miller

Proofreader Grace Darling

Distribution Specialists Peg and Tom Kennedy

**JOIN US TODAY!
USE THE HANDY
APPLICATION FORM
ON THE BACK PAGE.**

Thanks A.C.C. for working to
conserve Arlington's
natural resources.

m|ma
mycoskie + mcinnis + associates
civil engineering surveying landscape architecture planning
www.matekass.com
817-469-9871

Herb 'n' Health
Natural Foods Market & Herb Shoppe
3759 E. Lancaster St. Ft. Worth Tx. 76105
Karen Foley 817-555-1152

KNUDSEN'S
Portfolio
STUDIO
519 West Main Street • Arlington, TX 76010
PortfolioStudio.net
817-265-4441

redenta's
garden shops
landscape design

arlington dallas landscape
817.451.2149 214.823.9421 817.469.6786

www.redentas.com
"an experience in gardening the way it was meant to be"

**LAW OFFICE OF
SHANE GOETZ**

1304 WEST ABRAM STREET
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013
SHANEGOETZ@SBCGLOBAL.NET

LOCAL: 817-274-2905
METRO: 817-265-2902
FACSIMILE: 817-861-8909

ARBOR
TREE SERVICE INC
816-460-TREE
DAN HILER

Pruning Removal Free Bids
2600 Clover Lane Arlington, TX 76015

New York Avenue Blackland Prairie Park Jan Miller



NYABP is looking better than ever, thanks to an Earth Day and Global Youth Service Day project by Arlington's Lamar High School AVID group on Saturday,

April 25. That's Advanced Placement Via Individual Determination, a college preparatory program designed to increase learning and performance and to ensure success. And they were indeed a determined bunch! More than 30 kids cut and stacked a huge amount of brush, bagged lots of trash and toured the prairie, most experiencing a prairie for the first time. They asked great questions about prairies, plants, animals and prairie restoration. Answering those questions and leading the activities were able prairie volunteers Bonnie and Shelby Bilodeau, Wesley Miller, Bill Shaw and Laura Whitelaw...thank you! Best wishes and many thanks to the entire AVID group and their coordinator, Thomas Triplett.

April 25 was such a busy day: Earth Day events at the Molly Hollar Wildscape, and NYABP, and Prairie Fest IV too. Big thanks to John and Grace Darling for setting up the ACC booth at Prairie Fest, in addition to all the other activities that day. Thanks also to John Dycus, Jo Briggs, and Wesley Miller who staffed



the booth with the Darlings. Although Prairie Fest has grown bigger and better each year, it's still a great place to share green ideas, meet old friends and make new ones, and enjoy the fresh air and wildflowers of Tandy Hills.

Summer's heat will be here soon, but some activities will continue at NYABP. Because of the disturbance around the park's perimeter, these areas will be open for invasion by non-native species.

To help restore them, seed from natives within the park can be collected and sown on disturbed sites. If you're interested in participating, watch for collection dates in next month's newsletter or watch for e-mail postings.

Calendar:

Saturday, May 16

10:00 am until about sundown

Join the Conservancy for a free wildflower tour on the beautiful Clymer Meadow Preserve in northwestern Hunt

County. This year's tour will include Clymer Meadow plus Parkhill and Tridens Prairies; participants are welcome to stay for part or all. Contact Jim Eidson at (903) 568-4139 for directions or more information.

Friday, May 29

Native Prairie Restoration Workshop at Clymer Meadow Preserve
For details, see www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/news/events/docs/prairierestoration_ws.pdf
Cost is \$5 and includes lunch. Please RSVP by May 22, 2009 to (903) 455-6212 ext. 3.



Wildscape Update **John Dycus**



The helpers just keep on helping. On April 3 several teachers and a dozen students from Fort Worth Country Day High School worked a little planting magic in the erosion area, built a stone

retaining wall, watered some dry areas and moved many wheelbarrow loads of mulch. Then in response to their lunch invitation and a request to educate them on the wildscape, Peggy Quinn gave a great PowerPoint show. She's a pro, that Peggy Quinn.

Privet pounding continues apace at River Legacy Parks, thanks in part to a team of UTA students yanking away and to wildscape volunteers lending their expertise (and their weed wrenches) at identifying and snuffing the noxious weed. After eradication sessions April 11 and 25 (Earth Day), the city's preserve of priceless Eastern Cross Timbers woodlands has 100 fewer tree-sized privet remaining (hundreds of smaller ones,



Lucy Harrell (left), our expert at the plant sale, with Betty Cupps (center) and Ann Knudsen (right).



Volunteer Betsy Kalina and Bluestem Nursery owner John Snowden.

so many plants is great, but a greater accomplishment perhaps is the number planted in the wildscape. These plants are superior to those usually available because they're grown organically from local seeds and cuttings, making them better adapted to the North Texas elements.

In addition to the wildscape regulars, Lucy Harrell, wildscape friend, supporter and consultant, was there as our resident expert. John Snowden of Bluestem Nursery was at the sale to provide information on his native grasses. Accountant Mack Mitchell, husband of Master Gardener and ACC board member Callie



A good turnout and great helpers gave the wildscape its best plant sale yet.



Plant sale money table overseers Mack Mitchell (left) and Danny Kocurek.

Mitchell, provided professional oversight at the money table.

Also April 18, wildscape volunteers assisted at the water conservation event at the Southwest Library, where the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department has created a superb landscape, designed by Heather Dowell, using native and adapted plants to conserve water, minimize chemicals and reduce maintenance. While the adults were inside learning how to craft water-smart landscapes, the children enjoyed activities at outdoor booths.

continued on next page



Greenhouse manager Josephine Keeney with volunteer Joe Martinez.

Wildscape Update continued from page 4

Callie Mitchell worked with Dustan Compton, the city's water conservation coordinator, to make this a fun event for families. Linda Zombeck at the wildscape booth provided info for the children.

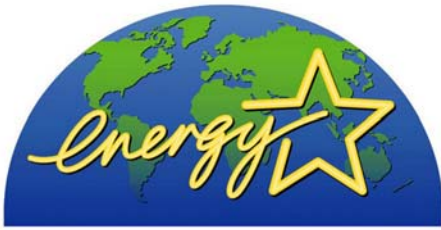
APRD also did a bang-up job organizing, staffing and hot dog grilling at Earth Day celebrations in neighborhood parks, including Veterans Park, home of the wildscape. Master composters proclaimed the virtues of compost and worms, while Heather Dowell, Hester Schwarzer and Ann Knudsen not only presented critter facts, but the live critters — ladybugs, caterpillars, a praying mantis, a green snake, birds, earthworms — themselves. Jo Ann Duman and Ann Trenton staffed the busy wildscape table. Face painting by Vicki Dixon's Girl Scouts, seed ball making and wildscape tours rounded out the attractions.



Wildscape Mini-class schedule:

June 6, Wildscaping Your Own Backyard, Lee Ann Rosenthal
 July 11, Soil Critters, Ann Mayo
 Aug. 1, Nifty Native Perennials, Laura Miller
 Sept. 12, Post Oak Woodland Preservation, Steve Chaney
 Oct. 3, The Importance of Backyard Wildscapes, Jessica Alderson
 Nov. 7, No Child Left Inside, Heather Dowell
 Dec. 5, Working with Children, Hester Schwarzer

Memorial Day Sales Tax Holiday



This article is provided by the State Energy Conservation Office. For more information, visit www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/.

During Memorial Day weekend, Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales and use taxes on purchases of certain energy efficient products. The 2009 Energy Star sales tax holiday

begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 25.

Qualifying products are:

- air conditioners priced under \$6,000 (room and central units)
- clothes washers (but not clothes dryers - because most dryers use similar amounts of energy, Energy Star does not label clothes dryers)
- ceiling fans
- dehumidifiers
- dishwashers
- light bulbs (incandescent and fluorescent)

- programmable thermostats
- refrigerators priced under \$2,000

Qualifying products will display the Energy Star logo, which may appear on the appliance, the packaging or the Energy Guide label. Earning the Energy Star means a product meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by federal agencies.

There is no limit on the number of qualifying items one can purchase during this sales tax holiday, and an exemption certificate is not required.

For more information on the sales tax holiday, visit www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx96_1331/.

Partners in the Plan for a Clean Green Arlington

Reprinted from www.arlingtontx.gov/environmentalservices.

When the garbage started piling up with waste generated from lunch, it was time to make a change.

Glenda Thompson organized a workplace recycling program for paper, aluminum cans and plastic. Within a year, the Medical Center of North Texas, OBGYN South Office, was well on its way to reaching its 1,000-pound recycling goal. They celebrated the milestone with a green party.

The Medical Center of North Texas, located at 811 W. Interstate 20, is one of 63 Green Team members enrolled in the city's commercial recycling program. In 2008, members recycled 14,925 tons of materials.

According to Commercial Recycling Coordinator Tim Yatko, that number is equivalent to a line of garbage/recycling trucks approximately nine miles long. Residential recycling is making an impact too, with more residents placing recycling items at curbside.

"The things we do are not big things, but they make a huge difference in our planet," Thompson said. "When we



consciously change our habits and increase our awareness of the environment, we can collectively make a significant difference."

When it comes to environmental preservation, Arlington leads by example, said Environmental Services Manager Robert Smouse.

In 2008, the Green Policy Council was formed to review internal policies and procedures for helping to make the City of Arlington's workforce environmental stewards on the job, while growing environmental awareness at all levels of government.

The City of Arlington has adopted internal policies that prohibit the purchase of bottled water when tap water is available, implemented a Mobile Source Air Pollution and Ozone Reduction Policy which prohibits unnecessary idling of city vehicles and created an integrated pest management policy.

Single stream recycling is allowing employees to recycle more than just paper in the workplace.

At the City Council level, elected officials are exploring ways to achieve cleaner transportation alternatives and generating more energy savings in city buildings. Methane gas recycling at the landfill, more hybrid vehicles in the city's fleet, river and lake area cleanup events, and year-round water conservation programs are a few of the initiatives that are helping to build a sustainable community.

"With the community a part of the solution, there is no environmental problem we cannot solve together," said Mayor Robert Cluck.

Partner with us for a Clean Green Arlington. Learn more at www.arlingtontx.gov/environmentalservices.

Volunteers Needed to Study Our Urban Forest

The City of Arlington is looking to complete a UFORE (Urban Forest Effects Model). Matt Churches, Forester for the City of Arlington, is heading up the project and is seeking volunteers with tree knowledge to assist in completing the project.

UFORE is a model suite that allows users to collect data on the entire urban forest and estimate the ecosystem services the resource provides to the community. After tree data are collected and entered into the UFORE database, they are merged with local hourly weather and air pollution concentration data. These data make it possible to calculate structural and functional information using a series of scientific equations or algorithms. The UFORE model is currently designed to provide accurate estimates of:

- Urban forest structure (e.g., species composition, number of trees, tree



density, tree health, etc.), analyzed by land-use type.

- Hourly amount of pollution removed by the urban forest and associated percent air quality improvement throughout a year. Pollution removal is calculated for ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.
- Hourly urban forest volatile organic compound emissions and the relative

impact of tree species on net ozone and carbon monoxide formation throughout the year.

- Total carbon stored and net carbon annually sequestered by the urban forest.
- Effects of trees on building energy use and consequent effects on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.
- Compensatory value of the forest, as well as the value of air pollution removal and carbon storage and sequestration.
- Tree pollen allergenicity index.
- Potential impact of pests such as the Gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, or Asian long horned beetle.

If you're interested in helping, call Matt at 817-277-0434 or email him at matt.churches@arlingtontx.gov.

Group Tours Southwest Nature Preserve

On May 2 botanist Jeff Quayle led a group of ACC members and others on a plant walk through one of our natural gems. Glen Rose yuccas were sending up tall spikes, farkleberries were blooming, the ancient adder's tongue was suitably strange, while mosses and ferns responded to recent rains. You'd hardly believe we were in Arlington.



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 _____

E-mail _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Please circle membership category.

First-year member \$10.00

Individual \$15.00

Family \$25.00

Supporting \$40.00

Sponsor \$100.00

Lifetime individual \$250.00

Other \$ _____

New member ☐

Renewing member ☐

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216. Contributions and dues are not tax-deductible. *I want to save trees; send my newsletter to my email address.* ☐

Arlington Conservation Council Officers and Board of Directors

President John Darling

817-274-1077 1darling@sbcglobal.net

First Vice President Jo Ann Duman

817-516-7453 jduman@juno.com

Second Vice President Roy Miliner

230-4295 rlmiliner@tx.rr.com

Treasurer Marian Hiler 277-3998

mernhome@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Jo Briggs 460-8483

briggs.robert@tx.rr.com

Editor John Darling 274-1077

1darling@sbcglobal.net

Board Members

Grace Darling

Heather Dowell

John Dycus

Marianne Herrmann

Molly Hollar

Danny Kocurek

Jan Miller

Callie Mitchell

THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council

PO Box 216

Arlington, TX 76004-0216

Don't Forget!

Wednesday May 13

7:00 pm

Dr Al Armendariz

*Air Emissions from Oil
and Gas Development*

Be sure to visit us at

arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Printed on recycled paper