

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POSTOAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2010

**No Regular
March Meeting
See Below**

www.arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

**No Regular March Meeting
Let's Do This Instead:**

Bill McKibben Speaks at UTA

**Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 pm
UTA Rosebud Theater
in the University Center**

**Park in lot at Pecan and Second Streets
and walk west to east end of
University Center.**

Bill McKibben is the author of *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and Our Durable Future* (2008). He may be the most prolific, important, and influential environmental writer of our time. His first book was *The End of Nature*. Other books include *Hope, Human and Wild*, *Maybe One*, and *Enough*.

Bill McKibben is a tireless environmental activist. He has led two of the largest protests against global warming in U.S. history, and he also founded *Stepitup07.org*, a website designed to help pressure the U.S. government toward more sustainable policies on carbon emissions.

Bits & Pieces

Spring Song

We would be on the far eastern edge of the house finch's range if it weren't for their huge numbers all over the eastern U.S. But those all came from a few individuals released on Long Island. The big thing here is the way their wonderful song brightens the first cold days of spring.



Today's Inspirational Moment



The environment
is everything
that isn't me.
Albert Einstein

Forget the Robins

Robins aren't harbingers of spring for us; they're here all year. Our spring is all about the trout lily, which grows one leaf for six years, then in the seventh produces two leaves and one flower between late February and the middle of March. Look for them in moist shady woods and on creek banks.



R.I.P., You Big Lug



Attempts by General Motors to find a buyer for the Hummer were discontinued when nobody wanted to be that stupid (Editor's interpretation of recent articles). Goodbye and good riddance.

From the President Jo Ann Duman

WHAT IS ACC?

John Darling shared his musings with me once about ACC as he prepared to introduce himself and ACC at a breakfast gathering of presidents of area organizations concerned with our environment. Our much beloved immediate past-president has been a member for almost 30 years and an active leader of several ACC ventures, most especially the outstanding newsletter that reconnects all of us ten times a year.

What does ACC look like from the outside? Thanks to John's newsletter (formerly printed in black and white at a cost of \$120 a month plus postage, and now e-mailed in color with stunning photos by a few of our talented photographer members), a Dallas Sierra Club member told me we look like people "who do so much."

As John told me he asked himself, "Is ACC a group of people who pick up litter?" A few dedicated members do indeed participate in the annual Trinity Trash Bash, and ACC usually wins one of the top money prizes (\$250 for first place) in the City of Arlington's Litter Challenge. A handful of folks like John over the years have developed a winning SOP for optimum loading of collection bags in small truck beds and racing to the finish line weigh-in with the mostest for our category: not very young and not very many. Only a few ACC members show up each time, but they bring a rotating cast of recruits such as grandkids, Cub Scouts, Friends of OS Gray Park one time, friends and neighbors. This is our usual modus operandi for any and all endeavors.

Is ACC a thorn in the side for our City Council and city staff? We hope so. Our mission is to promote environmental awareness and conservation of

Arlington's natural resources. Exploiters of natural resources for economic gain have the City's attention almost all of the time. We do respect council and staff service to our community and support them in making "green" an ethic in Arlington with many city programs, such as household recycling, toxic waste collection, LEAF, last year's first Eco-Fest organized by staff and supported by citizens, cleaner fueled city vehicles, and the pilot program with the "The T" for commuter buses to downtown Fort Worth (funded by a grant because non-ACC residents opposed using taxpayer funding). ACC is among their biggest support, too, with March for Parks, service on boards and committees, and a high proportion of registered voters who turn out every time the polls open.

Is ACC a native plants, organic gardeners or animal lovers group? Certainly members are in such groups,

continued on page 3

THE POST OAK

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



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New York Avenue Blackland Prairie Park Jan Miller



Big thanks to Bonnie Bilodeau, John Darling, Danny Kocurek, Wesley Miller, Margaret and Bill Shaw, Jack Thornton and Laura Whitelaw for their

hard work at February's workday! The weather was cool but dry, perfect for sawing down some major mesquites and other prairie interlopers. While we worked, chorus frogs and wintering sparrows and possibly a dickcissel serenaded...very nice. Bonnie explored a small canister found in one of the cedars: It proved to be a geocache last accessed in 2006! Even in winter, you never know what you'll find on the prairie.

Fall and winter rains (and snows) are expected to bring a bumper crop of wildflowers this spring, but a winter mowing is looking very doubtful. The

prairie is still quite waterlogged, holes appeared to be filled with water just 2-3 inches below ground level.

Next Prairie Workday!

Saturday, March 20, 2010

9:00 am – noon

Let's enjoy the early spring weather, plus early wildflowers should be out. RSVP is appreciated (for directions and in case of inclement weather, etc.) but not required:

jgmiller5594@sbcglobal.net.

Please wear sturdy soled shoes/boots and long pants. Bring gloves, loppers and hand saws if you have them.

Water will be provided. We'll work up an appetite, so plan to meet for lunch afterwards!

Great Backyard Bird Count

at Southwest Nature Preserve

Saturday February 13

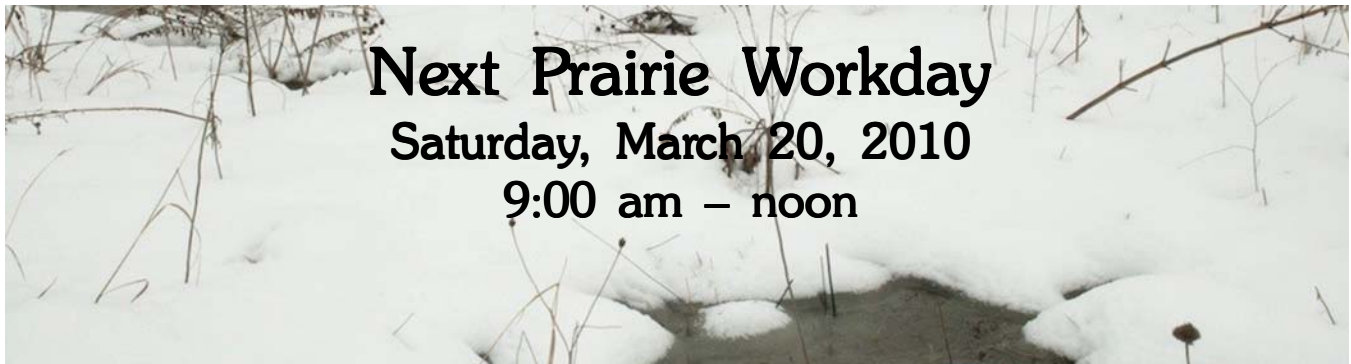
Who knew 2010 would find John Darling, Wesley Miller and Donna Piercy

(and Jan Miller) trudging through six inches or so of glorious snow on SWNP trails for the GBBC! Cloudy weather and the snow probably contributed to a lower count than last year (30), but still, 28 species of birds were reported.

Signs of spring

Sure signs: Geese are flying north and trout lilies are in bloom. Probably the biggest stand in Tarrant county is at nearby Tandy Hills in east Fort Worth, with a very early first bloom of the season for this area reported on January 6.

Curiously, none have been found in Arlington. Master Naturalist Jim Varnum is exploring likely sites in River Legacy Park, but so far, no luck. They seem to prefer shade to part sun on moist limestone or sandy soils. If you know of any local sites, please contact Jim at jevarnum@aol.com or me at jgmiller5594@sbcglobal.net.



Next Prairie Workday
Saturday, March 20, 2010
9:00 am – noon

From the President continued from page 2

not just as interests but as active leaders in these and a host of other organizations. ACC "seeded" the Molly Hollar Wildscape and Community Garden Association. Many people work at both endeavors who have never been to an ACC meeting, may not even know our name, and they demonstrate the commitment to community values we all share.

ACC members are people who do what they have time for, a little or a lot, in one or more areas that is their passion. Many are leaders in other organizations, and that makes us a central communication hub to spread word quickly when needed. Mostly, you can find ACC members who will work with you on something but you will have to step up to lead or co-lead the effort.

Please continue to support our environmental education meeting by attending the monthly programs the second Wednesday of the month. All members are welcome at monthly Board meetings the first Wednesday of the month where your ideas and enthusiasms are needed to keep ACC going.

New York Avenue Prairie Scrapbook



From cold and white to cold and yellowish-brown, our prairie has it all so far this year. But before we know it, we'll be looking at hot and very, very green. With any luck, the March 20 workday will be pleasant and sort of brownish-green, and every invading tree we remove gives us just that much more healthy prairie.

There's no doubt that it's a daunting job, but it's got to be done if we value our little piece of blackland prairie. And we do.



What's in Those Gas Well Ponds? Apparently tap water.



Last month your editor was fussing about the health of ducks in a gas well pond. Someone from Chesapeake Energy called to point out that their ponds are storage areas for harmless water that hasn't yet been used in fracking. He later sent some references that supported his claim, and a little Internet reading added more support, so here's our answer. Guess those ducks are okay.



Wildscape Update John Dycus



After all that cold and all that moisture, the Molly Hollar Commemorative Privet Bash and Sunshine Revel came off without a hitch (but with several tugs). More than 30 volunteers,

including eight with Tarrant County Juvenile Services and their two adult leaders, labored on a gorgeous, warm day, the last Saturday in February, to give Molly what she requests every year for her birthday — dead privet piled high. With hoes and pullers and shovels they toiled, teams of impassioned Hollarites, weed-wrenching away until the wheelbarrows overflowed with small to large privet and Japanese honeysuckle from the rain- and snow-softened ground. Jo Ann Duman and Lisa and Emma Marshall, to name three visitors, even stopped by to cheer them on.

Afterward, to celebrate, many of the volunteers went to Mijo's for lunch, which was topped off by Molly's favorite dessert, at least at that moment — chocolate cake made by Nicholas and Benjamin Kocurek. The cake was rumored to contain eggs from home-grown chickens, which only heightened its appeal in Molly's eyes. It was a great day to be a Wildscaper.

Thanks to the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department's Forestry Division, the wildscape has more than 35 new trees, some up to 10 feet tall, provided by the LEAF program. After the volunteers, with help from Mike Warren's TCJS crew, dug about 25 large holes, Martin Sanchez and Greg Wilson of APRD provided manpower to get the final 10 planted.



The wildscape is a restoration project and wildlife habitat, so volunteers have gathered seed and cuttings from the undeveloped back of the park and other local areas to propagate the native plants that belong here. Plants native to this area replace the Bermuda grass and the invasive exotics that take over when the ground is disturbed. Last year after the big privet pull there was no privet in sight, but birds eat berries from privet elsewhere, then fly back to the wildscape to take the load off after a hard day, and soon a new crop of small privet has sprouted. Invasive species are the biggest problem for all the conservation and preservation projects in the U.S.

When parks began, the "underbrush" was typically removed and replaced with Bermuda grass. Too bad, as this destroyed small understory trees like redbud, Mexican plum, Rusty blackhaw

viburnum, Carolina buckthorn and Eve's necklace, along with great native groundcovers like coralberry, white avens, cedar sedge, Cherokee sedge, wild onion, wood violets, violet ruellia and horseherb and native perennials and ornamental grasses like inland sea oats, Canada wild rye and little bluestem.

Thankfully, our own APRD is leading the way toward sustainable water-conserving landscaping. The department's Heather Dowell is creating a manual of plants appropriate for North Central Texas, and this month many existing plants at City Hall are scheduled to be replaced with native and adapted plants. Heather will oversee the installation, utilizing a design by landscape architect and longtime wildscape inspiration Rosa Finsley.



Avoid the Draft John Dycus

(Editor's note: I carelessly misplaced this contribution some time ago and hope to make amends by including it here. The program described here is on hold pending another grant to Oncor.)

As I write this, the central air is blowing heat like mad, but within minutes it'll cut off. Not like before, when it seemed to run forever.

Welcome to life in a newly weather-proofed home.

Backed by a Public Utility Commission grant, Oncor did the work — wrapping the attic ducts, caulking, weatherstripping around the outside doors and the door from the kitchen to the garage and even the water heater closet door (so gas fumes will vent through the ceiling rather than into the living area) — for free. Really. Free.

My house was one of the last targets before the money ran out in October, but Rick San Miguel with Plano-based Energy Dynamics Consultants, one of Oncor's



104 service providers on the project, was hopeful the grant will be renewed.

You might call him — 214-629-1177 — and try to get on the list for next time.

If he's the one who does the deed, you will enjoy the experience: He's skilled, efficient and doesn't mind telling you what happens next.

For entertainment value, the best part is the door blow test, where the technician opens your front door, snugs a metal frame in there and covers it with a sheet. Into a hole in the sheet goes a loud, powerful fan. Guard your chihuahua. Don't want her to get sucked in and shot out on the yard.

Turn the fan on and it draws air through the house to measure leakage around windows and doors, interior brick work, light fixtures — wherever there's a crack or a hole in a wall (even a picture nail). My house registered 39 CFM, or cubic feet per minute. Not entirely sure what that means, but San Miguel frowned. Three times too high, he said. Four hours later, exit test: 17. Here's perfect: 14-15.

Big improvement.

Birds and Windows: Deadly Combination

Excerpted from <http://www.sialis.org/windowstrikes.htm>

It's estimated that window strikes kill between 100 million to a billion birds in North America each year.

What can be done about this phenomenon? If there's one thing to which "act locally" applies, this is it: We can all take action at our homes, offices and schools to reduce and eliminate this major problem.

It's not always easy and may involve some sacrifice of views out the window,

but it's worth it in terms of reducing this deadly menace to birds. Here are several things you can do to deal with window collisions:

1. Move bird feeders, bird baths and perches to within 3 feet of your window. You'll see the birds better and they can't fly fast enough to get hurt.
2. Collisions are caused by birds trying to fly through glass or because they see reflections from the outside, so do what you can to break up or eliminate this by placing decals or strings on the outside of your windows, separated by no more than 4 inches vertically and 2 inches horizontally.
3. Use screens, films or other coverings on your windows that eliminate reflections or use bird-safe glass.

4. If constructing new windows, consider angling them 20 to 40 degrees from vertical.
5. When installing new landscaping, consider placing trees, shrubs, water features, and other bird attractants well away from windows.



Time to Stop Reading Neil Sperry John Darling

Vintage Garden Guru: In his March 6 Star-Telegram column Mr Sperry helps us wipe out weeds in our (generally useless) lawns. Of course the dangers of his advice can be argued endlessly, but it comes down to one simple question: Are weeds important enough to warrant any level of danger? Below is a sampling of information regarding Mr Sperry's recommendations:

Post-emergents

2,4-D: This chemical has been observed to increase the risk of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The amine salt formulations can cause irreversible eye damage (blindness). One study found that occupational exposure to 2,4-D caused male reproductive problems, including dead and malformed sperm.

Cancer risk: Organizations have taken different stances on 2,4-D's cancer risk. On August 8, 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a ruling that stated existing data does not support a conclusion that links human cancer to 2,4-D exposure. However, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified 2,4-D as possibly carcinogenic to humans. A 1995 panel of 13 scientists reviewing studies on the carcinogenicity of 2,4-D had divided opinions, but the predominant opinion was that it is possible that 2,4-D causes cancer in humans.

A 1990 study of farmers in Nebraska, even when adjusting for exposure to other chemicals, found that 2,4-D exposure substantially increased the risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. A 2000 study of 1517 former employees of Dow Chemical Company who had been exposed to the chemical in manufacturing or formulating 2,4-D found no significant increase in risk of mortality due to NHL following 2,4-D

THE GARDEN GURU

Time to kill

To get rid of those garden pests, first figure out what you have, then determine your best weapon and follow directions implicitly

I keep an ongoing log of all questions that come in to my radio programs, and hands down the biggest single topic is weeds. What are they? Why do I have them? How can I get rid of them? Texans have more angst about weed control than almost any other part of the gardening experience. Let's boil it all down to the facts.

You don't have to identify a weed down to its genus and species in order to eliminate it. You simply need to answer three sets of questions. First, is it a warm-season weed (does most of its growing when it's warm), or a cool-season type (germinates in fall and early winter and begins to flourish with the first warmer days of mid-February)?

Second, is it annual (germinates, grows, blooms and dies all within the same year) or perennial (persists over its dormant season to re-sprout for another year)?

And third, is it a grass (parallel veins and chuffy flowers and seed heads), or is it a broad-leaved weed (pretty much anything that isn't a grass)? If you can answer those questions, you'll be able to buy the appropriate control.

So, let's outline the types of weedkillers.

Pre-emergent herbicides stop weeds before they germinate. Put another way, if you can see the weed, you've waited too long to apply a pre-emergent. They kill the seeds as they try to sprout, which means that they must be applied prior to germination ("emergence"). The Team Di-

plants are growing. Spray when it's not windy to keep spray drift off any green plant tissues (leaves and trunks) that could be damaged. Read and follow label directions implicitly.

Weeding them out

You may be tempted to use "weed-and-feed" combination products to lighten your workload, but that may not be a good idea. Timing won't always be the same, plus you run the risk harming trees and shrubs as you broadcast the product over the lawn. It is better to handle the two processes separately.

If you're trying to eliminate grass and weeds entirely, perhaps so that you can plant a flower or vegetable garden in that space, spray the affected area with a glyphosate weed-killer. It leaves no residue in the soil, so you can set out your new plants as soon as the weedkiller has had time to do its work (generally 10-15 days).

Nutsedge is the enigma. None of the previously mentioned weedkillers will control it. It's perennial, so you'll have to deal with it as a population of existing plants. Two products, Image and Sledgeham-



NEIL SPERRY



Dandelions are cool-season, broad-leaved weeds. Apply Gallery in early September to prevent sprouting. Apply broad-leafed weedkiller spray now to eliminate existing plants.



Clover can be controlled with spot treatments of a broad-leaf weedkiller that contains 2,4-D.



Control dollarweed, a warm-season perennial common in moist soils, with broad-leafed weedkiller spray.

exposure, but did find an increase in risk of mortality due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Complete Elimination Products Glyphosate (eg, Roundup):

An epidemiological study in Ontario farming populations showed that glyphosate exposure nearly doubled the risk of late spontaneous abortions. A team in France decided to find out more about the effects of the herbicide on cells from the human placenta.

They have now shown that glyphosate is toxic to human placental cells, killing a large proportion of them after 18 hr of exposure at concentrations below that in agricultural use. Moreover, Roundup is always more toxic than its active ingredient, glyphosate; at least by two-fold. The effect increased with time, and was obtained with concentrations of Roundup 10 times lower than agricultural use.

In California, where there is a mandatory system of reporting pesticide poisoning, glyphosate is the third most common cause of pesticide illness in farm workers.

It is the most common form of reported pesticide poisoning in landscape gardeners.

A World Health Organization study revealed significant glyphosate residues in wheat after harvest. Milling did not remove it, as it moves into the plant and the wheat seed. The study showed that cooking does not break it down.

Glyphosate is very toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Concentrations as low as 10 parts per million can kill fish. Daphnia, a very important part of the aquatic food chain, especially for fish, can be killed by as little as three parts per million. This is an important reason why it should not be used near waterways or in drains.

Glyphosate is extremely toxic to the soil life. One application can cause a dramatic plunge in the number of beneficial soil micro-organisms and arthropods. Studies show a reduction in the species that build humus, thus it contributes to the decline in soil organic matter.

Nutsedge recommendations

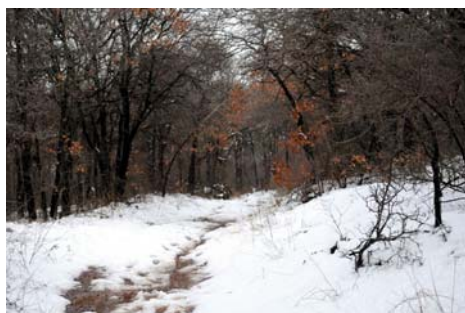
Image: contains atrazine. Studies have found that atrazine can interfere with the hormones and sexual development of fish, birds, and rats. ...new findings should raise alarms about human health. "It's a chemical...that causes hormone havoc...You need to look at things that are affecting wildlife, and realize that, biologically, we're not that different."

An estimated 80 million pounds of atrazine are used annually in the United States, and it's commonly found in ground and surface water. About 75% of stream water samples and 40% of groundwater samples contain atrazine, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The Natural Resources Defense Council detected atrazine in 90% of tap water samples from 139 water systems. The EPA is currently reviewing the herbicide, while several states are considering banning it all together. Atrazine is already banned in the European Union.

Southwest Nature Preserve — White Version

We received a special white valentine this year. Of course it came with power outages and masses of broken limbs, but it also gave us a wonderful new way to see our familiar places.

Here's a look at the preserve and a list of birds spotted on February 13: Mourning dove, White-winged dove, American robin, Cedar waxwing, Northern cardinal, Blue jay, Song sparrow, Field sparrow, Ruby-crowned kinglet, Great blue heron, Buffle-head, Lesser scaup, Ring-necked duck, Gadwall, Northern shoveller, Mallard, Cooper's hawk, Sharp-shinned hawk, Black vulture, Turkey vulture, Kestrel, Yellow-rumped warbler, Red-bellied woodpecker, Downy woodpecker, Carolina wren, House finch, American crow.



Gas Well Meeting

North Central Texas Communities Alliance (NCTCA) will meet on Thursday, March 11 at 6:30 pm at Hotel Trinity Inn Suites. The program will be *Gas Drilling Basics 101: Straight Talk from Community Leaders*.

Note: 6:30 coffee and networking. Meeting starts at 7:00. Hotel Trinity - Inn Suites is located in Fort Worth at I-30 at Beach Street.

The North Central Texas Communities Alliance is a broad-based coalition of individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the Barnett Shale area working on local, state, and national levels for positive solutions to the problems related to natural gas drilling and pipelines. For more information, visit www.nctca.net.

Preserve Progress

After careful consideration of the 19 firms that submitted responses to the RFP for the Nature Preserve Master Plan, the selection committee short-listed five firms, and last Monday the selection committee listened to presentations from these five firms. At the end of the day, Halff Associates Inc. was chosen. The City will begin negotiations with Halff immediately to get them under contract for the preparation of a master plan and phase one development. We are very excited to have such a talented group of landscape architects, designers, and engineers guiding the future development and ecological restoration of the preserve.



Note to Halff Associates: We have a little problem along the new spillway.

No LEED Herps in FW New Solar Panel Deal



Something about the new \$19 million Museum of Living Art (a place for reptiles and amphibians) at the Fort Worth Zoo sounds a little off. Can you spot it in this excerpt from the February 27 Star-Telegram article:

“Originally, zoo leaders hoped to make the building ‘green,’ perhaps even LEED-certified. But that idea was scrapped because caring for cold-blooded animals requires generous amounts of heat, humidity and sunlight.

[Ramona] Bass said the zoo switched to ‘eco-realism’ for the building, such as collecting rainwater in cisterns, using recycled rubber for the floor and recycled plastic for the benches, and installing motion sensors on electric fixtures. The design of the roof will also cut down on cooling costs.

‘What we’ve tried to say is, do what you can to be environmentally responsible,’ Bass said.”

So what’s wrong? This: Surely we’re at a point where LEED certification can accommodate heat, humidity, and sunlight while ensuring environmental responsibility and long-term reduction in operating costs.



Act fast: TXU and SolarCity are offering local homeowners a chance to lease solar panels for about \$35 a month, a plan that would lead to saving at least that much on electric bills and the opportunity to sell back any excess electricity generated. You need no up-front money, and it doesn’t matter who supplies your electricity. The biggest problem could be getting in line soon enough, so inquire now if you’re interested. For more information see http://www.txu.com/solarcity_faqs.htm.



Don’t Miss This One

DFW’s only public hearing on the new EPA ozone standard

Tuesday, March 16, 3:00 - 7:00 pm
Arlington City Council Chambers
101 W. Abram

3:00 pm Welcome by
Mayor Robert Cluck
Presentation on DFW ozone problem
by EPA Region 6 Administrator
Dr. Al Armendariz

3:30 - 7:00 pm public comments

To reserve a time to speak:
e-mail Stephanie at dfwzonehearing@gmail.com and request a slot up to 5 minutes.
Or show up and wait for an open speaking slot, or if you can’t wait for a slot, give your verbal comments by videotape.

Landfill Revisited **Grace Darling**

It was a cold December day when members of the city's Green Team and other interested persons met on the grounds of the Arlington landfill. You may remember that the landfill, on the north side of the Trinity River bottomlands bordering Collins Street, was owned and operated by the city until early 2005, when an agreement was reached with Republic Waste Services to lease and manage the facility for 40 years. Republic, the parent company of Duncan Disposal, also holds the City's garbage collection contract and was looking to acquire a regional landfill to serve the needs of many neighboring communities in the Metroplex.

At that time Arlington Conservation Council fought vigorously against the lease; we believed the landfill was admirably run, a steady source of revenue to the city for many years to come, and that its lifespan should be maximized by limiting the source of waste intake to Arlington residents. But the mood for privatization of municipal services was prevalent in the country then, and cries of "Arlington is not in the business of running a landfill" won the day. The city's compensation consisted of

- an initial one-time payment of \$15 million
- Republic to fund the \$5.1 million Closure/Post Closure Trust Account, releasing the city's funds
- a \$500,000 transition period payment
- an annual usage fee of \$1.7 million
- royalties of \$3.25 per ton on all disposal, expected to generate approximately \$1.9 million annually

In addition, Republic made one-time contributions to several city projects, including \$400,000 to fund a Community Environmental Education Center at River Legacy Park, \$140,000 toward construction of the new animal shelter, and \$260,000 to the Parks Department toward construction of Heroes Park.

Having toured the landfill shortly before the lease deal and again 5 years later, I am happy to report that things are outwardly little changed. Recycling proceeds at a brisk pace:

- comingled residential paper, cardboard, plastic, and glass – 4.7 tons/year
- refrigerators and freezers – 1000 units/yr
- lawnmowers and weed eaters – 12.2 tons/yr
- scrap metal – 630 tons/yr
- TVs and electronics – 165 tons/yr
- asphalt – 30,000 tons/yr
- tires – 57 tons/yr
- concrete – 325,000 tons/yr
- brush and wood – 30,000+ tons/yr

The methane gas produced by the decomposing trash is also recovered and piped to the Village Creek Water Treatment Plant to run its machines.

The brush and yard waste operation, run by Living Earth Technology, is particularly impressive, with massive chipper-shredders gulping enormous quantities of leaves, branches, and even whole trees and spitting them out as mulch. Some of the material is

composted and the rest is made available free to the public – just bring your pickup and get a load of mulch. But my favorite is the concrete deconstructor, where giant slabs get chewed up into gravel-sized pieces that are immediately reused as road bed material.

Even the landfill staff is largely the same. The city workers had the option to switch employers and most kept their jobs, salaries, seniority, and benefits package. These are some of the hardest working, unsung heroes who maintain the infrastructure of our daily lives: Work starts at 4 am and goes on until midnight in three staggered shifts, all week long, 365 days a year.

So, this story has a happy ending, right? Well, sort of. The cloud on the horizon is that the landfill is nearing capacity much sooner than anticipated, and if the waste deposition continues at the present rate, it is projected to reach fill-out within 11 years. (The height, diameter and slope limits of the trash hills are spelled out in the operating permits issued by TCEQ.) This does not necessarily mean our landfill will close then, but managers are already making plans to open a third cell at the westernmost end of the property. If a new permit is granted – and the permitting process takes years – a lot of preparation must take place before it is made operational, and it must be up and running by 2020, when the current eastern cell is scheduled to be decommissioned forever.



No Regular Meeting This Month

Instead, come hear Bill McKibben speak at
UTA Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 pm at
the Rosebud Theater
Come early — seating is limited
See you there!



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 ☐

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Don't Forget!

Wednesday, March 10

7:00 pm

**Bill McKibben
Speaks at UTA**

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