

ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POSTOAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUME 12, NUMBER 8

SEPTEMBER 2011

www.arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

September Meeting

Texas power: Shop Arlington. For Arlington.

Trudy Lewis,
Project Coordinator
Financial and Management Resources
City of Arlington

Wednesday, September 14, 7 pm



PowerUp Arlington is an innovative relationship between the City of Arlington and Arlington-based Texas Power. This program offers competitive and reliable electricity service to the residents of Arlington while giving back to the community we all call home.

Bring something for the raffle.

Bits & Pieces

Tough Times for Turtles

Forget about plants (just for a moment): What about all our aquatic wildlife in this nightmare drought? Not just the big stuff, like the soft-shelled turtle, but all the fishes, amphibians, insects, and crayfish they eat. And what about that whole complicated underwater food web, right down past the dragonfly larvae to the microscopic bits? It's murder out there in the dried-out streams and ponds.



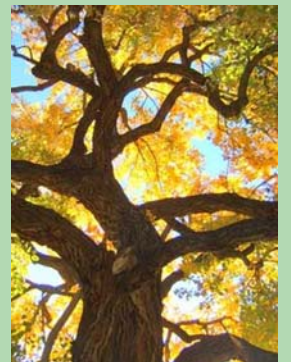
Today's Inspirational Moment



In all things of nature
there is something
of the marvelous.
Aristotle (B.C. 384–322)

Need More Neil Sperry?

Here's a bit from the July 16 *Star-Telegram*: "Adapted" plants should be your goal. Forget whether a plant is native or not." Neil then gives us two great exotics (crape myrtles and nandinas) and two apparently awful natives (hackberries and cottonwoods) and says, "You make the call." Okay, Neil, we'll just do that .



We Like You Too, Chesapeake



Star-Telegram, Sept 7: The chief executive of one of the top U.S. natural gas producers delivered a blistering rebuke of critics of shale gas drilling on Wednesday, calling them fear-mongering extremists who want Americans to live in a world where "it's cold, it's dark and we're all hungry."

From the President Jo Ann Duman

Of course, as an ACC member, you know that more smog-creating pollutants are spewed into North Texas skies every day from gas drilling and extraction operations than from all the cars and trucks in the region combined. You know because you heard Dr. Al Armendariz speak at our May 2009 meeting about his study, later confirmed by a consultant hired by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). You also know because of the many days you step outside and can personally observe that our air quality is getting worse, not better. While pollution from vehicles is declining, it continues to increase daily from Barnett Shale development. The Fair Share Campaign seeks to get TCEQ and the USEPA to control volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). We need our city's support to reach these agencies before December to influence the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The ACC board provided a letter to Mayor Cluck on

August 5 (a copy is posted on our website along with supporting data and references). We need you to call your council representative and the at-large council members to ask them to put the Fair Share resolution on the agenda for a city council meeting. The short version of the resolution appears below. If you can meet with your council representative in person, please let me know and we may be able to have other ACC members join you. If your council member requests more information please let any board member know and we will get it to them.

Mayor Cluck and City Council:

Please support the Fair Share Campaign by telling TCEQ and USEPA to publish requirements for the gas drilling and extracting industry to control VOC emissions. We suggest a simple statement of solidarity with North Texas citizens who wish to breathe clean air, such as:

The Mayor and City Council of Arlington recommend that as part of their efforts to meet Rate of Further Progress goals for the 2011 DFW State Implementation Plan of Ozone, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency implement control measures on emissions of VOCs from the development of Barnett Shale resources throughout the DFW non-attainment area, including pneumatic valves, vapor recovery, electric compressors, flaring bans, and green completions. We further request that our state and federal representatives work with us to see that TCEQ implements VOC controls on gas industry facilities and equipment in the 2011 DFW State Implementation Plan for Ozone.

THE POST OAK

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

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GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

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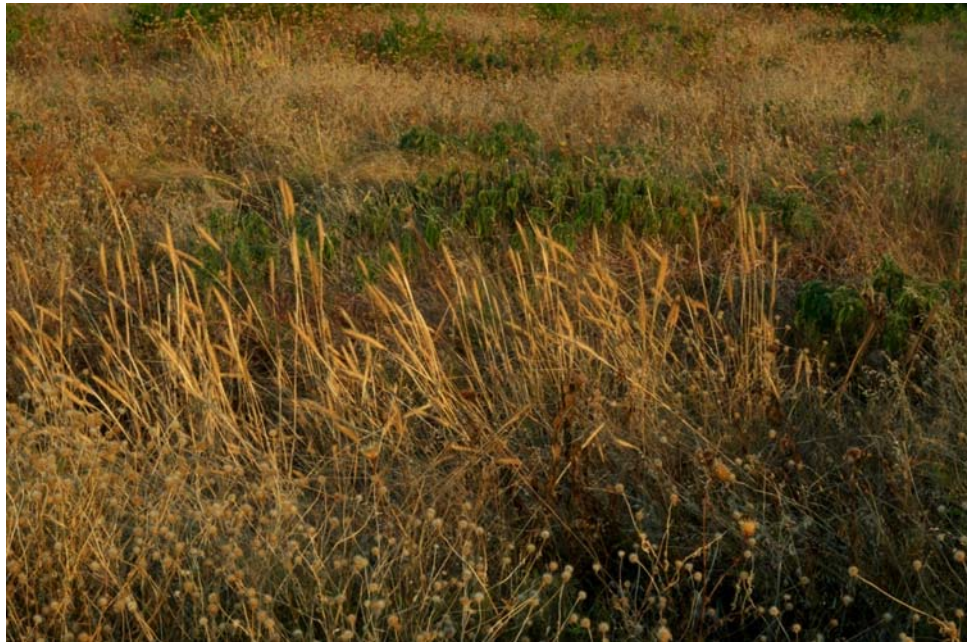
Thanks A.C.C. for working to
conserve Arlington's
natural resources.

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New York Avenue Blackland Prairie Park Photos by Wesley Miller

Even in the drought our prairie remnant perseveres. We know there will be changes, but we can anticipate surprises after the rains come. And the rains will return, even as we're forgetting exactly how those big drops feel as they come beating down. Patience.



Wildscape Update John Dycus



Wildscape volunteers have come to the rescue to help fill the tree bags on 3 extra mornings each week. Huge thanks to Ann Trenton on the Monday team, Norma and Joe Martinez and Whitney Hansen on Tuesdays, and Callie Mitchell and Mac on Fridays. Our regular Wednesday volunteers can then spend Wednesday mornings weeding, mulching, and watering everything except the trees.



See next page for
photo captions.



Wildscape Update continued from page 4

Captions for photos on preceding page:

1. Miniclass with Josephine Keeney discussing her super yard project in which she and Frank removed all the water guzzling St. Augustine grass and replaced it with Texas native plants.
2. Ann Trenton, Monday watering team.
3. Wes Miller, our much appreciated Wildscaper who removes poison ivy and is a great all around volunteer.
4. Anita and David Ferman, favorite regular walkers, who contributed a very generous check for treegators to save more trees.
5. Marylee Thomason.
6. Norma Martinez, Callie Mitchell, Josephine Keeney, and Joe Martinez.

Don't miss
the plant
sale!

It'll be here on
Saturday,
September 24.

Wildscape Fall Native Plant Sale

Sale Features

The sale features a large variety of plant species grown organically at the Greenhouse by Wildscape volunteers, including: Ground Covers, Perennials, Shrubs, Vines and Trees.

- Grown from local seeds
- Better adapted to our climate
- Low requirement for water
- No need for pesticides or fertilizers

When: Saturday, September 24, 2011

Where: Randol Mill Park Greenhouse
1901 W Randol Mill Road
Arlington, TX

Map: See back side.

Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Other: See our website for more details, pictures and prices.

www.thewildscape.org



Snake Herb



Military Hibiscus

Some of the many natives in the sale:

Western Bluemist, Eastern Bluemist, Columbine, Damianita, Drummond's Aster, Willow-leaf Aster, Frostweed, Heartleaf Skullcap, Ironweed, Texas Lantana, Velvet-leaf Senna, Mealy Blue Sage, Mexican Milkweed, Military Hibiscus, Obedient Plant, Rock Rose, Scarlet Sage, Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye, Goldenrod, Yarrow, Zexmenia, American Germander, Pink Evening Primrose, Frogfruit, Lyre-leaf Sage, Wild Petunia, Sampson's Snakeroot, Snake Herb, Wild Violets, White Avens, American Beautyberry, Autumn Sage, Yellow Bells, Mountain Sage, Turk's Cap, White Mistflower, False Indigo, Dwarf Texas Sage, Flame Acanthus, Elderberry, Desert Willow, Red Buckeye, Eve's Necklace, Mexican Buckeye, Mexican Plum. (See back side for more)



Photo Credit: Steve Locke

Will there be enough water?

- Are we turning the Texas panhandle into a desert of the future?
- Is it legal to steal your neighbor's water?
- Will a multi-year drought mean that some cities will lose their water sources?

COME HEAR THE SURPRISING ANSWERS!

Get the facts from state and local officials, water experts and environmentalists.
CHALLENGE THEM WITH YOUR QUESTIONS!

FREE!

North Texas Regional Water Forum

Saturday, September 24, 2011

1:00 to 4:30 p.m. (Doors open at 12:30)

Irving Central Library

801 W. Irving Blvd.

(south of TX 183 between MacArthur and O'Connor)

SPACE IS LIMITED! To reserve your seat and for more information, go to

<http://texaswaterforum.org>

Sponsored By:



Sierra Club, Dallas Regional Group

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League of Women Voters-

Arlington Area

Dallas

Irving

Plano/Collin County

Richardson

Tarrant County

EPA Hearing on New Rules for Gas Industry Air Pollution

Here's something from Jim Schermbeck at Downwinders at Risk. It's important (and conveniently located) so make a call and reserve five minutes to let the EPA know what you think.

EPA Hearing on New Rules for Gas Industry Air Pollution
Thursday September 29, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm
Arlington City Hall Council Chambers

You can register for a five-minute time slot between 9 am and 9 pm by calling Ms. Joan Rogers at EPA: 919-541-4487.

And here's a blog post that includes a press piece on what the rules do and why they're important nationally: Search for Downwinders at Risk, click on Housekeeping, then look on the right for *Why Attending September 29th's EPA Hearing on New Air Toxics Rules for the Gas Industry is Even More Important Now*.

Urban Renewal: Tough on Trees



Before (almost)



During

The shiny new Midtown student apartments at Davis and UTA Boulevard are essentially open and are, no doubt, a taste of things to come: The neighbors hate them, virtually no tree was spared, and they have a gratuitous almost-black roof. Progress?



LATE SUMMER MOON

At the rim of my wild garden
The moonlight pools like cool water,
Bathing all the leaves in ivory;
It creeps along the bricks
Of winding paths, revealing
Joints and chips and cracks
Where I place my feet with care,
Feeling my way as if half-blind,
Which indeed I am,
My eyes confused by cataracts,
Fuddled by floaters,
Blocked by ignorance
From seeing even half
Of what lies there before me
So dim, so bright.

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(previously published in Pencil
Stubs, Sept. 2011)



And
nearly
done

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 _____

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 ☐

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216. Contributions and dues are not tax-deductible. **Please add \$5.00 if you want a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you.**

Note: If you cannot pay, please let any board member know.

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THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
PO Box 216
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Don't Forget!

Wednesday, September 14
7 pm

Trudy Lewis
Texas Power:
Shop Arlington.
For Arlington

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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