

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL

POSTOAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 10

NOVEMBER 2012

www.arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

November Meeting Arlington Parks: Time to Reassess

Pete Jamieson, Director
Arlington Parks & Recreation
Department

Wednesday, November 14, 7 pm
Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram St
(corner of Fielder and Abram)



Don't miss our last general meeting of the year — and a chance to hear one of our favorite speakers. Pete will give us the latest information on developments in our natural areas and what the future holds for them.

Bring something for the raffle.

Bits & Pieces

So Much for Cute

Great horned owls live all over North America and eat almost anything from skunks to small alligators to other birds of prey. They're at home in tundra, deserts, rainforest, and just about any place where there are some trees. Their eyes are fixed in the sockets so they can turn their heads up to 270 degrees. Lock up your cats; this is a predator's predator.



Today's Inspirational Moment



Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower.
Albert Camus

Great Grass

The Canada wild rye that was so happy during the last cool season is still showing off at the Southwest Nature Preserve, at least until some wintering sparrow spots all those seeds and does lunch.



Mayflies in November?



There was a smallish hatch of mayflies the other night that prompted someone to say, "But it's not May!" That's okay, though, because there are dozens of species in Texas whose adults emerge mostly in spring and fall. Note: Poor mayfly adults have vestigial mouthparts and their digestive systems are filled with air.

From the President Grace Darling

Looking Forward to the Holidays

The days are getting shorter, the nights colder, and we are closing in on that time of year when many people go on shopping sprees, agonize over gift-giving, decorate like mad, eat and drink too much, and come January feel remorseful for the whole thing and make rash promises they cannot keep. Others – a few, mercifully – sink into a blue state aggravated by the forced cheer of the season and don't begin to recover until well into the new year, when their lives inevitably return to their pre-holidays normal.

Nature, too, has cycles: of hot and cold, dry and wet, windy and calm weather; of abundance and scarcity; flourishing and decline; life and death. Why should we be any different? As Rachel Carson put it 50 years ago, "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as

long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." (*Silent Spring*, 1962).

Follow this link for an essay by Paul Bloom, professor of psychology at Yale, on how we can find happiness in nature: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/magazine/19wwln-lede-t.html>. And let us be guided by the words of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama: "Today more than ever before life must be characterized by a sense of Universal Responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life."

Whether you belong in the first group or suffer with the second, I wish you safe, peaceful, and hope-filled Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays.

Right, Southwest Nature Preserve, February 2010.



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

Grace Darling, John Dycus, Molly Hollar,
David Hopman, Wesley Miller

Proofreaders Grace Darling,
Marian Hiler

Join us today!
Use the handy
application form
on the back page

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John DYCUS

3607 Shady Park Drive
Arlington, TX 76013
(817) 277-2138
john@xdycus.com

Herb 'n' Health

Natural Foods Market & Herb Shoppe

3759 E. Lancaster St. Ft. Worth Tx 76105
Karen Foley 817-555-1152

NTREI NORTH TEXAS RENEWABLE ENERGY

SINCE 1994 NORTH TEXAS OLDEST
SOLAR PV DESIGN & INSTALLATION SPECIALIST

Jim Duncan
ntrei@1scom.net • 817.917.0527
www.ntrei.com
NABCEP PV # 031310-57 • TECL 27398

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

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

m|m|a
mycoskie + mcinnis + associates
civil engineering surveying landscape architecture planning
www.matters.com
817-469-9271

New York Avenue Blackland Prairie Park Photos by Wesley Miller



New York Avenue Blackland Prairie Park

**3rd Saturday workday
November 17, 2012 9 am – noon**

Volunteers needed! We need you to remove brush and trees and there's always an opportunity to pick up litter too.

Please RSVP to: prairie@arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

Bring your handsaws, loppers and gloves and wear thick-soled boots/shoes and long pants. Also sunscreen, bug spray and water. Please bring your own container; refills will be provided.

Let's meet for lunch after: it's a great opportunity to refuel and to brainstorm on prairie restoration. Location will be determined by group vote.



Wildscape Update John Dycus



Wildscape fall planting has begun with activity at the small pond after Arlington Parks and Recreation repaired the pump and restored the stonework.

Volunteers hope to finish bordering the entire length of the sidewalk and add more evergreens for winter interest. Trees that didn't survive the drought and plants damaged by normal wear and tear in a public space will be replaced in December and January.

Special needs youth come by each Wednesday to weed and spread mulch on the paths. Several wildscape volunteers have the training and experience to create here a glorious outreach while providing a means for the young people to make real contributions in a worthwhile community project.



Perry Perales is a good guy who lives across the street and likes to dig in the dirt, which makes him a natural for the Molly Hollar elevating-consciousness-through-compost team. He recently installed — dug the holes, mixed the concrete — a sign at each of the two arbors, and he performs other tasks too strenuous for the regular volunteers. He says he'll keep helping. Next time you see him, tell him you appreciate his priorities.



Cooler weather has brought fall bloom and increased enthusiasm for getting things in the ground. Fall planting minimizes transplant shock before the next round of heat and drought, whereas spring planting requires continuous maintenance through the summer, with little growth until fall.



The Crosstimbers Master Naturalists conducted their annual tour last month, and on the same day as the North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas tour. Come again, friends. You're always welcome.



Above, Josephine Keeney leads the Master Naturalist tour. Below, Hester Schwarzer, president of the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists.



Above, Terry Gratton led the Wildscape mini-class last month. Below, a box turtle stopped by the class.



Heather Dowell Receives TLCP Certification

The Arlington Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce that our very own Heather Dowell has recently been recognized as a Certified Landscape Professional by the Texas Nursery & Landscape Association.

Heather completed the Texas Certified Landscape Professional (TCLP) program which certifies individuals who demonstrate a high level of knowledge and skill in horticulture and landscape development in the nursery and landscape industry.

"I heard about this test 18 years ago, but I was always so busy with work that I never did it," Dowell said. "I finally decided it's time to get my certification so I studied the materials for a week



straight and went and did my best – and I passed."

The examination for TCLP certification consists of two exams – the first being a 200 multiple-choice question examination, and the second being a plant identification exam in which the candidate must identify plant pictures and plant characteristics.

TCLP certification requires members to earn 20 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) over the course of two years in order to renew their certification.

Heather currently holds the position of Urban Forestry and Land Manager for the City of Arlington Parks and Recreation Department.

Workday at Crystal Canyon David Hopman

I am organizing a privet removal day at Crystal Canyon Natural Area. As you are well aware, Chinese privet is the most destructive invasive shrub/small tree in our area and has devastated the new Crystal Canyon Natural Area.



The city of Arlington Parks Department will provide tools so the more people the better. We will have students from the Program in Landscape Architecture and the Environmental Society at UT-Arlington, as well as our "Friends of Crystal Canyon" group.

We have been active at the Canyon this fall, having planted 300 little bluestem and sideoats grama (1-gal), and having led the effort to compost seed 16,000 square feet of native seeds along the trail.

Date: Saturday, November 17.
Time: 9:30 to 2:00. We are asking for a 2-hour commitment, either from 9:30 to 11:30, or from 12:00-2:00. If you can stay for the entire time, that would be fantastic.



Thanks to Last Month's Speaker

Thanks to Rachel Roberts, Planner for City of Kennedale, for her exuberant presentation on Kennedale's Urban Bird Treaty. Rachel explained the city projects intended to increase conservation, habitat improvement, and education on behalf of migratory birds. It was a delightful story of a small city with big goals and some worthy achievements, presented with humor and wonderful enthusiasm, and a packed house responded with eager questions.

Rachel Roberts and Jan Miller at the October meeting.

DFW's Chronic Smog Problem

(The following article was excerpted from "The North Texas Ozone Attainment Initiative" by Downwinders at Risk.)

DFW has been in continual violation of the Clean Air Act for ozone pollution since 1991.

In 2011, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality used its own computer modeling to assure EPA and the public that its latest plan would deliver historically clean air to DFW by the deadline of 2012. For the first time since it was implemented, the TCEQ said, the region would avoid a violation of the 85 ppb ozone standard.

But that's not what happened. In fact, DFW air quality actually got worse between the time the TCEQ began drafting its plan and the end of its implementation in 2012.

Instead of getting closer to the standard, the average ozone reading in DFW climbed between 2010 and 2012.

Far from reining in smog, the TCEQ plan allowed more numerous and geographically dispersed violations of the Clean Air Act.

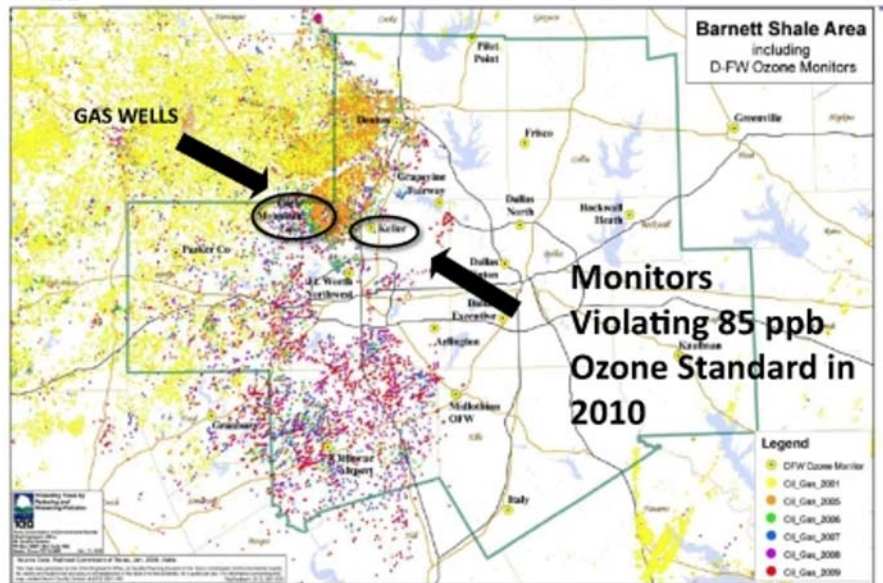
Today North Texas heads into yet another round of clean air planning, with the goal of meeting the newly approved 75 ppb ozone standard by 2018.

A new clean air plan from Austin outlining how DFW will meet that standard must be submitted to EPA by 2015. Drafting of that plan will begin in 2014.

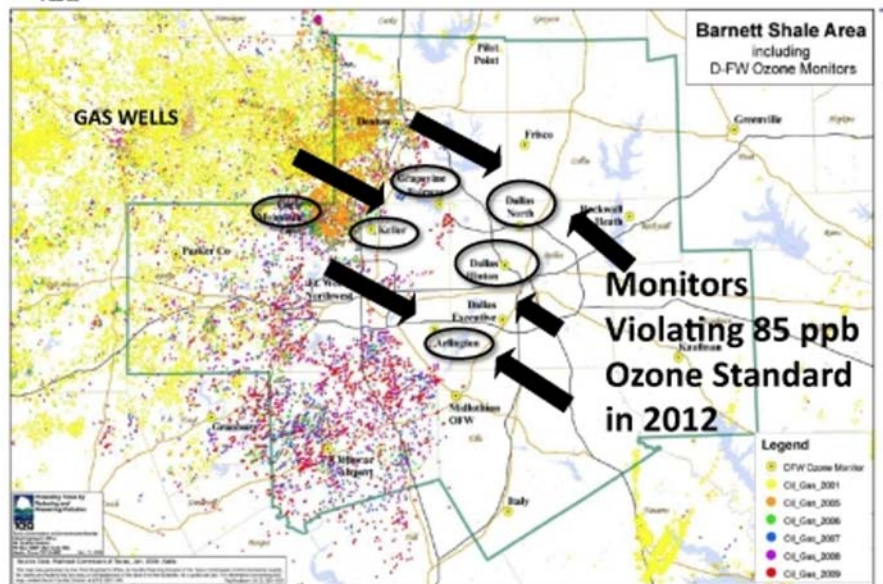
Unless policymakers better understand why the current TCEQ model isn't working, DFW may be doomed to repeat its air quality failures.



In 2010, only two monitors tripped the 1997 85 ppb federal ozone standard. They were both in the northwestern Tarrant County.



In 2012, six monitors tripped the 1997 85 ppb federal ozone standard. The Dallas Hinton Street monitor in Dallas hadn't tripped on this standard since 2005.



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. Note: If you cannot pay, please let any board member know. The only available newsletter format is electronic, and it can be obtained via email and the Web site.

President Grace Darling
darlingg@sbcglobal.net
Vice President Danny Kocurek
Treasurer Marian Hiler
mernhome@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Marianne Herrmann
Editor John Darling
1darling@sbcglobal.net

Board Members

Jo Ann Duman
John Dycus
Frank Keeney
Roy Miliner

Jan Miller
Callie Mitchell
Ed Pischedda
Dick Schoech

THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
PO Box 216
Arlington TX 76004-0216

Don't Forget!

Wednesday, November 14

7:00 pm

Pete Jamieson

Arlington Parks: Time to Reassess



Printed on recycled paper