

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5

AUGUST 2014

May Meeting

Parks and Recreation Philosophy and the future of Arlington Parks and Recreation

**Lemuel Randolph, Director
Arlington Parks & Recreation Department**

**Wednesday, August 6, 7 pm
Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram St
(corner of Fielder and Abram)**



Come hear from our new Parks Director and learn about his list of goals for the next year.

Lemuel Randolph came to Arlington in 2014 from the City of McKinney where he served as the Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces. With a total of 20 years of experience directing municipal parks and recreation departments, Randolph has also worked for the cities of Missouri City, Sugar Land and San Bernardino.

Bits & Pieces

Dog Day Cicada

Whenever it's just nasty hot, it must be time for Superb Green cicadas, a creature of extremes: They look wonderful and sound awful. This is an annual species that

lives several years, most of the time as underground larvae that feed on roots with sucking mouth parts.



Today's Inspirational Moment



Environmentalism is a form of pagan fundamentalism. These green wackos are fanatics like al-Qaeda. Just like them.

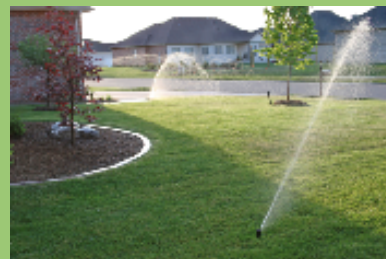
G. Gordon Liddy

Step Away from the Lawn, Please

Yes, it's Dog Day Sperry time. Neil steps right up to defend the honor of the much-maligned lawn (Aug 2, *Star-Telegram*) by compar-

ing its environmental virtues to dirt and pavement. So, "Before you ...reduce or eliminate the lawn in your life, you may want to consider a few facts."

Read this for a lesson in how to avoid any thought of using appropriate native plants.



From the President **Danny Kocurek**



The Short Arm of the Law

Among the many things that annoy me when I go running, like how hot it is and how slow I am, is the fact that I

confront lawbreakers everywhere. I am not talking about murderers and tax evaders, because the police actually go after those. I am talking about the laws that are never enforced.

Since I usually run in the grass next to trails and roads, first on my list are folks who don't pick up after their dogs. I sometimes wonder what these people are thinking as they watch their dogs do their business and then walk away. Perhaps they think they are helping fertilize the grass? Maybe they are trying to get back at "the Man." I try to not think that they are just lazy and feel it is their right to make others suffer but I feel that may be the real reason.

Although the dog walkers' motives may be questionable, the folks who let their horses pollute large swaths definitely have to know what they are

doing. I hope there is a special level of Hell for those people.

The other group of evil doers are the folks who water their yards when they are not supposed to. On a recent Sunday morning jog, I had to run a gauntlet of sprinklers. To be honest, I aim for the sprinklers when it is this hot, but that still doesn't make it right.

The real question to ask is why we make laws that aren't enforced. I spend a lot of time in parks all over the city and have never seen a police officer. The Water Department barely has enough staff to keep our taps running. Seems like giving tickets would fund the positions easily but City Government doesn't work that way.

I guess I could stop running, but I don't see that happening. I'll just keep watching where I step and take my shoes off outside.

THE POST OAK

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Blackland Prairie Preserve Photos by Wesley Miller



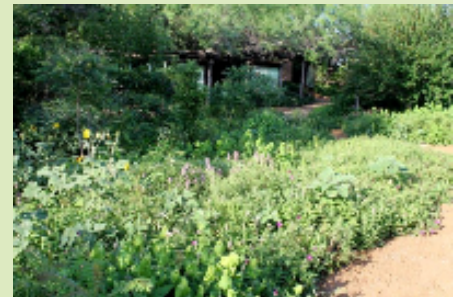
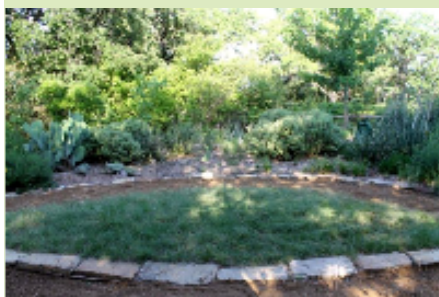
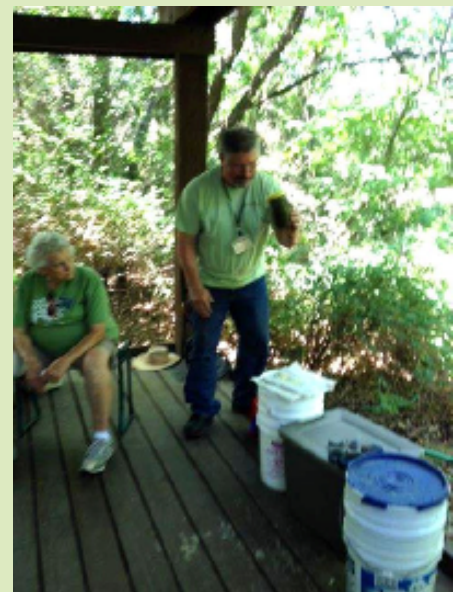
Wildscape Update

No real update this time, just your fumbling editor staring at photos and speculating about what's been happening in the Molly Hollar Wildscape during the last two months or so.

It's pretty clear that Larry Norris recently entertained the troops with a mini-class on worm composting — you can tell by the trademark buckets, the newspapers being shredded, and the remarkable enthusiasm (no doubt) Larry always brings to the vermitopic.

We also have several shots of the wildscape that support the basic notion: Native plants look great, even during an ugly drought. And that's over and above all their irreplaceable environmental services.

The next page features the return of HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth) volunteers. In the past Molly has raved about them. Translation: she got a lot of work out of these young leaders of tomorrow, and it's a good bet that they labored hard again this time under the watchful eye of Marylee Thomason.



More Wildscape Update



ACC's 4th of July Float Wins Trophy Again This Year Marian Hiler

Every year, ACC's dauntless crew of float builders embraces the challenge of building the ACC float to depict the annual Parade theme with an environmentally green interpretation. The 2014 float definitely met the challenge promoting America's role in sustainable energy and winning a 3rd place trophy to boot. ACC even pulled off what has to be the first float ever in the parade's history that used solar-power.

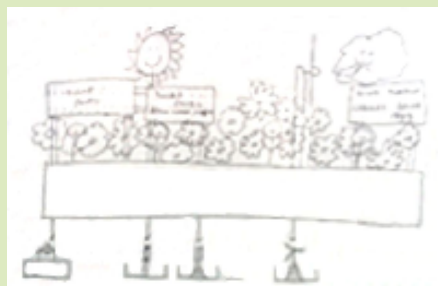
Our fearless president brought the crew together to turn "Made in America...Celebrating Ingenuity" into our own "Sun + Wind + American Ingenuity = A Powerful Solution." Guided by his detailed blueprint (see photo) the resourceful crew built the float using materials that can be reused, repurposed, or

recycled. For several years now, we've been using the same lumber that provides the underlying skeleton that supports the float along with the same skirt and sign boards. The float is fleshed out with curbside castoffs, paper scraps and paint from the Environmental Collection Center in Fort Worth. Working solar panels, which powered the sound system for our young musicians, were provided by Jim Duncan, owner of North Texas Renewable Energy Inc. He also loaned ACC a real life wind turbine.

By far the best resources we have are the dedicated ACC crew and our contributors. It would be more than enough if JoAnn and Mike Kolanko just provided a workshop to park and build the float but they make

miracles happen. Mike, an artist by profession, imaginatively turns scrap plywood and cardboard cartons into works of art. Jim Duncan enhanced our sustainable energy theme with his solar panels and wind turbine. The float wouldn't have even been in the parade without Bob Dawson helping to arrange and transport Marvin Schwettmann's trailer to us or Dale Marsh pulling that very trailer in the parade. And of course, the Kocurek brothers and their friends providing their wonderful musical notes.

This was the 11th straight year ACC has had an entry in Arlington's 4th of July parade. With teamwork like this year's, no doubt there are many more to come.



July 4th Parade Photos by Paul Knudsen and John Darling



Join the Fight for Clean Air Grace Darling

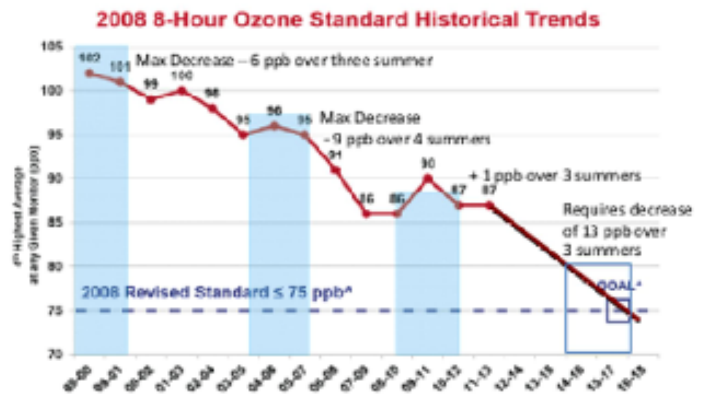
“North Texas has not been able to meet the federal clean air standard since it was implemented in 1997. It took about 10 years for ozone averages at Denton Enterprise Airport to drop from about 97 parts per billion to 87 ppb. State planners had projected another 10-ppb drop between 2010 and 2013, but that did not happen. Instead, progress stalled.” (Denton Record-Chronicle, June 16, 2014)

Despite all evidence to the contrary, last week our former mayor and EPA’s Region 6 Administrator, conservative columnist and Bush-administration apologist Richard Greene told us that our air was fine, thank you very much, hold the no-change course charted by TCEQ and quit worrying so much about it.

The graph at right shows what it would take to reach the present ozone standard of 75 ppb in 5 years.

So we are confused. How can we reach the soon-to-be-published proposed new federal standard of 60 ppb when we’ve been stuck at 86 or higher since the Barnett Shale play started?

If the quality of the air we breathe is important to you, I urge you to learn the truth about what the state is and is



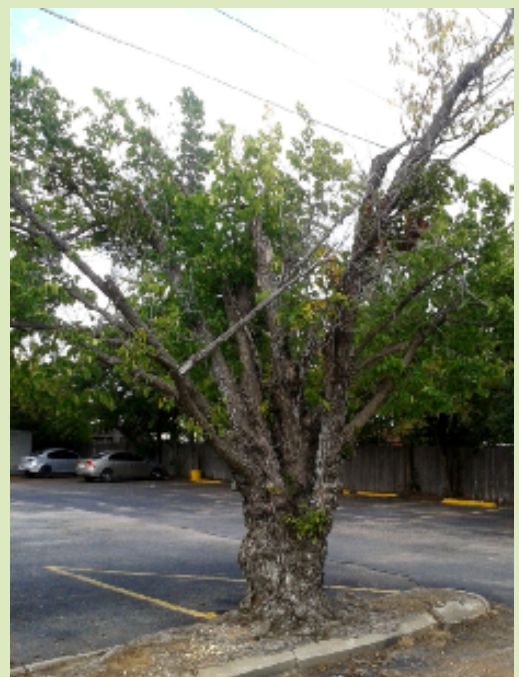
not doing to control toxic emissions from various industries. Read this week’s report by Jim Schermbeck of Downwinders at Risk, <http://www.star-telegram.com/2014/08/02/6013533/dfw-still-the-dirty-air-capital.html> and find out how we, working together, can obtain unbiased data and pressure state officials to act on the available information. But please, educate yourself and get involved in the fight for clean air in North Texas. Your life may depend on it.

Best Hackberry in Arlington?



It’s certain that hackberries get no respect: People say they’re brittle and possibly even ugly.

Well, that will surely change as we consider more subtle virtues. What about toughness and perseverance in the face of overwhelming asphalt? It’s all about character of course, and if you can produce a better tree, let’s have it.



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Memberships are good for one year, renewable each January. Your dues go directly to our public education efforts.

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THE POST OAK

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Don't Forget!

Wednesday, August 6

Fielder Museum

7:00 — 8:00 pm

Lemuel Randolph
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