

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL

POST OAK

ACC WORKS TO PROTECT ARLINGTON'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EDUCATION,
COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ADVOCACY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 9

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October Meeting

**Electronic recycling
And why we do it**

**Terry Shultz,
President, E-Waste Collections**

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



Electronic waste is the most rapidly growing segment of the municipal waste stream. In this presentation Terry Schultz will let us know why we should be recycling our electronics. She will discuss what is electronic recycling, its history, and what lies ahead for reclaiming electronic trash. Terry will talk about how E-Waste Collections has a hands-on approach to collecting and processing electronic waste with a major focus on using the local North Texas market for its downstream recycling. She will have a few sample pieces of metals and parts that are generated from their breakdown process.

Bring your unwanted electronic products to the meeting. If it runs on electricity, E-Waste Collections will take it.

Bits & Pieces

Mystery Turtle

Four days ago a three-toed box turtle stared out from a rosemary bush in the semi-wildscape front yard, (see next photo below) only a couple of feet from a busy street. Retreating slowly into a tangle of mostly native shrubs and small trees, it left a batch of questions in its dignified wake: Where does it live? It can't stay in the yard — home ranges usually have a diameter of 750 feet. Does it cross the driveway to the overgrown lot next door? Does it cross the street (please, no) to a much bigger patch of habitat? Was it eating Mexican plums in the yard? And maybe most interesting: How can this wonderful animal possibly hang on for 100 or so years in such an inhospitable place?



Today's Inspirational Moment



If you really think that the environment is less important than the economy, try holding your breath while you count your money.

Dr Guy McPherson

Ansel, Just FOCUS Please

Nature pictures for the FOCUS Photo Contest for Young People need to be uploaded by November 1.

Details at <http://www.acctexas.org/focus/focus-rules.php>



From the President **Danny Kocurek**



ACC presented its Fix it Green exhibit at EcoFest for the third year and it continues to be one of the most popular exhibits at the festival.

Although we have become more efficient at staging the event, it still involves a great deal of work from our wonderful members. Frank Keeney, Roy Miliner, John Darling and Peggy Quinn assisted with setup, takedown and "personned" the displays during the event. Grace Darling and Jan Miller also helped with takedown. We got help on Saturday from Ann Trenton, Zak and Doreen Kaszak, Lorna and Dale Marsh, Josephine Keeney, Julia Burgen, and Molly Hollar. We were also assisted by some great students from UTA, the Northstar School and others. As always, I am sorry if I left anyone off the list.

It's wonderful to see all these folks come together for a great cause. Thank you all.



THE POST OAK

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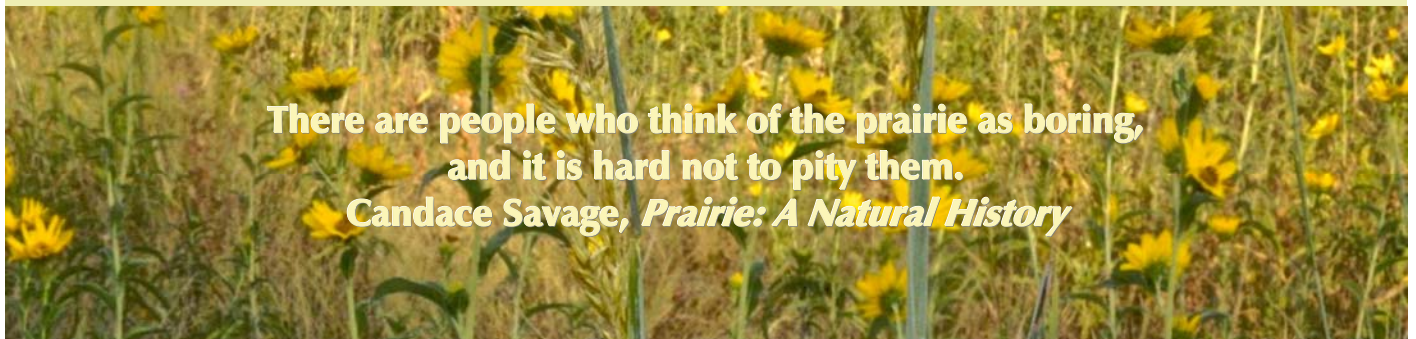
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conserve Arlington's
natural resources.**

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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve Photos by Wes Miller

Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

The two kiosks at the parking lot entrance to the wildscape have been updated by magic. The magic is magnets.

Danny Kocurek cut tin sheets for backing, and Mac Mitchell brought his cordless drill and fastened them to the frame. Ann Knudsen Photoshopped the pictures, and Molly put magnets on the back of everything to be displayed. Now it will be much easier to keep the kiosks current.

Plans are to update all of the kiosks. One will be dedicated to showing the latest projects and the people who made them possible.

The long-anticipated renovation was delayed by the dire need to keep the trees watered. Prolonged drought makes trees vulnerable to diseases like the fungus hypoxylon canker, a weak pathogen carried by beetles and airborne pollens. It is common in East Texas and across the southern United States where it aggressively attacks trees that have been weakened.

There is no cure. Keeping trees watered is the best defense.

"The general health of a tree depends a lot on where it is growing. Bottom-land areas tend to be one of the most favorable sites for trees. There is usually adequate moisture coupled with deep, fertile soils," reports the Texas A&M Forest Service.

"Soils with high clay content will hold water much better than sandy soils. Trees growing in clay soils tend to be shallow rooted and may be more severely impacted by prolonged drought than trees growing on loamy or sandy soils where roots will grow deeper.

"Most of a tree's feeder roots that absorb moisture and nutrients are located in the upper 12-14 inches of the soil. When a clay soil dries out, the



impact on the tree can be great since the tree is not accustomed to sending roots deep into the soil for moisture and nutrients."

Disease is not the only problem with prolonged drought. Live wood in healthy trees has a moisture content of 120-160 percent. Leaves wilting is a common indication of water stress.

Wilting can be classified as incipient, temporary or permanent. Incipient wilting is not readily noticeable, but it can change to temporary wilting and is characterized by visible drooping of the leaves during the day. At night the plant will rehydrate and recover. During prolonged dry periods, temporary wilting can change to permanent wilting where the plant does not recover overnight.

Permanently wilted plants may recover when water is added to the soil, but prolonged permanent wilting kills most species of plants. In addition to wilting, leaves may curl or warp, become crinkly, turn brown along the edges (scorch), turn yellow or fall from the tree.

Water is used in photosynthesis. Transpiration keeps the forest cool. When tree humidity drops to 100 percent, transpiration stops and the entire forest is drier and vulnerable to fire.

The Molly Hollar Wildscape has never burned. It has suffered vandalism, off-trail running, careless tossing of trash and the vagaries of nature, but Molly and her dedicated volunteers have kept it thriving.

Those involved have benefitted not only their community but themselves with impressive education regarding native plants.

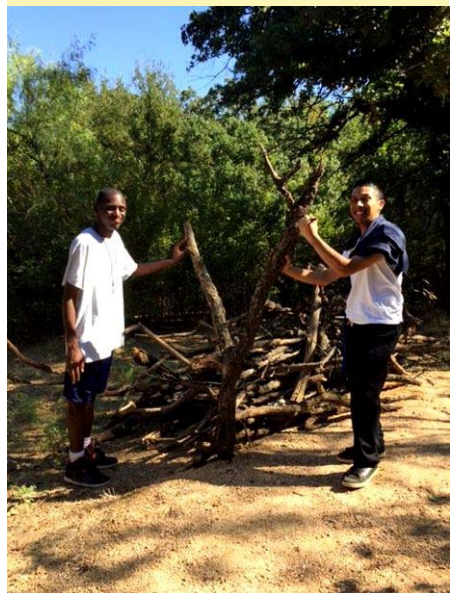
We lift our hoses to hypoxylon canker, which will not fell a single oak under our care.

Volunteers are a robust part of the wildscape team, so it's a pleasure to welcome members of the Over18 Project.

Students in the program learn such activities as how to use a washateria and ATM, shop for groceries and work at grocery stores and restaurants. Their leader, Gary Faletti, and teacher, Charlotte Birkheimer, are actively seeking volunteer opportunities in the Arlington area. Contact Marylee Thomason for information.

The boys come to the wildscape every Friday. Brock, Elijah and Jose mulched long sections of the erosion area recently. The trail that connects the lawn behind the amphitheater to the wildscape upper trail was named for Elijah — the Eli Trail! — because he worked so hard on it.

Brock (*below left*) joined Jose (*below right*) in a romp through the woods collecting fallen branches to define the prairie. This has been their favorite project so far.



Thanks to Our Last Speaker



We're grateful to Ricky Linex, Zone Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Weatherford, Texas. At the September meeting Ricky spoke to us on *Native Plants for Urban Landscaping*, illustrating and describing a remarkable number of useful plants many of us had never heard of before. Ricky is also the author of *Range Plants of North Central Texas — A Land User's Guide to Their Identification, Value and Management*, and he brought copies for us to purchase and have autographed.

ACC board member Dick Schoech (*left*) and Ricky Linex (*right*).

Wildscape Fall Native Plant Sale. Josephine Keeney

The wildscape sale, which was held at the Randol Mill greenhouse on September 26, was a great success, possibly one of the best we have ever had.

We all worked very hard for the whole year and were rewarded greatly for our efforts, with enough money to keep the wildscape covered for another year.

Advertising the sale at the Fix it Green Booth at EcoFest worked very well. We distributed 200 flyers at the event, and the following day Frank Keeney, our Webmaster, sent an eblast to over a thousand people who were interested in receiving the announcement.

All in all it was a wonderful event, and we look forward to another year of growing plants for the wildscape — and for the purpose of getting people introduced to Texas native plants.



More Next Month!

BACK TO THE ROOST

Yesterday
While I was driving home
A lazy flock of vultures
Lofted singly, calmly,
Above the rush-hour traffic,
All seeking evening haven
On a powerline tower
A mile or so away.

There was no unseemly push.
They were either full
From successful harvest
Of the daily roadkill
Or resigned to meet
A night of hunger
Secure among the rest
In the roost's unsanitary crush.

Sharp eyes doubtless saw me
Down below upon the street,
Neither fearful nor inviting,
Just another scavenger,
Also sated or still hungry,
Taking up a slot in my own flock,
Drifting to my own untidy roost
In my own cozy tree.

©2004 John I. Blair

Photo of the Month

At last! Six entries this month, and the winner is the first in contest history who is not — I repeat, NOT — related to the editor. Marian Hiler is our well-deserved winner with this serene mélange of light, texture, and of course, superb use of negative space. Thank you, Marian. Your prizes are in the mail.



SW Nature Preserve

Saturday, October 3, was big, very big at the preserve. Volunteers seemed to be everywhere, doing lots of very different jobs to make our special place even better. Here's the word from Jan:

Crossroads Church: 20-25 volunteers; their participation was part of maybe 1000 volunteers helping city-wide on a variety of projects. Their work here included completing staining of the rough cedar boundary fence along Bowman Springs Road, weeding and invasive removal in parking lot beds, removing temporary fencing and stakes in a meadow restoration area and (most fun) a seed stomp of local ecotype grass and wildflower seeds in two entry areas.

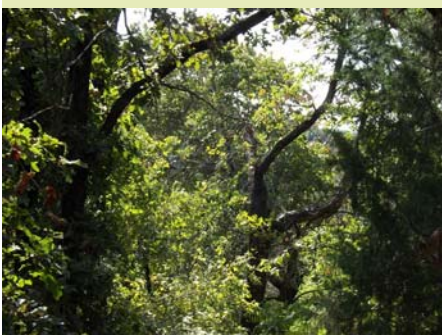
Fort Worth Fly Fishers: at least 5 volunteers including Mike McCorkhill, Lester Jackson, Roger Slagle and a few others showed that invasive plant removal is a lot harder in the water. They reduced the population of rough pond weed, cattails and some out-of-balance aquatic plants. This work is part of the restoration plan recommended by Texas Parks & Wildlife aquatic biologist Raphael Brock, based on a recent survey.

Friends of SWNP: Laura Capik, Annabelle Corboy, Lynn Healy, Donna Piercy and Ray Sherrell (and Jan, of course). As usual they generally pitched in everywhere.

Arlington Parks & Recreation: Jay Falgout and crew (Terry, Perry, John and maybe more) provided invaluable logistics, tools, setup, and planning for the whole thing. And some pretty hard work, too.



Jay and Jan — and crew.



Ecofest 2015

Once again, ACC drew large crowds to its Fix It Green tent at Ecofest. What's involved in our continuing success? There's nothing to it. Just follow the simple steps below.



Start with this. ↑



Add all ingredients to this. ↑



Some assembly required. ↑



More assembly required. ↑



Insert Molly Hollar. ↑



Add people. ↑



Talk to people. ↑



Reverse all previous steps. ↑



Stand by truck, then go home. ↑

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

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How did you hear about us? _____

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Don't Forget!
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Fielder Museum
7:00 – 8:00 pm
Terry Shultz
Electronic recycling
And why we do it