

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL

POST OAK

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

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JULY–AUGUST 2016

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August Meeting

Dealing with Wildlife

Ray Rentschler,
Field Operations Administrator,
Arlington Animal Services

Wednesday, August 3, 7 pm
Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram St
(corner of Fielder and Abram)



This presentation will cover the types of urban wildlife within Arlington and some strategies on how to live with our wild neighbors. Animals that will be discussed are coyotes, bobcats, alligators, skunks, feral hogs, snakes and other common animals. We will also cover the new city urban wildlife Web site and how the city responds to different wildlife issues and situations.

Bring Something for the Raffle

Bits & Pieces

Tarantula Terror

You can't help but be amazed by the insects around us. Consider tarantula hawks, very large wasps that belong to a worldwide group with over 20 species in the US. Males just hang around feeding on flowers and hoping to mate, while females paralyze tarantulas, bury them, and insert an egg. Larvae feed on the hapless spider, avoiding major organs to prolong the host's miserable life. The wasp has a horrible sting that it advertises with warning colors. Naturally there are mimics like this blister beetle that has its own burning chemical defense.



Today's Inspirational Moment



Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

Rachel Carson,
The Sense of Wonder

Hungry for Habitat

Every day we hear terrible reports of species declining as we destroy habitat. Here's a happy opposite: UTA made a parking lot island a while ago, stuck some live oaks in, and now western kingbirds have a new place to nest.



From the President Jan Miller

When did you join Arlington Conservation Council? And how did you learn about ACC?

Chances are, it was through word of mouth, maybe an article in a local newspaper, and it was a few years ago. Since then, use of local journalism has declined, but social media applications have greatly expanded, and Arlington continues to grow!

ACC would like to take advantage of these new opportunities to also grow our membership and that's where YOU come in.

Do you use [Nextdoor](#), "the private social network for your neighborhood", or [Twitter](#)? ACC would like to enlist its members who use either Nextdoor or Twitter to help spread the word about our meetings and events by re-posting ACC's notices.

Do you have any recommendations for other organizations or groups that might be interested in receiving ACC announcements of meeting and event notices?

If you can help, or if you have other ideas to grow ACC's membership, [please share them with us](#).

One more request: (no electronics or apps required) please mark your calendar now for ACC's August 3 meeting, and remember to invite a friend or neighbor. Thanks!



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John Darling, Editor
1darling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

John Blair, Julia Burgen,
Grace Darling, Marian Hiler,
Jan Miller, Wesley Miller,
Marylee Thomason

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

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Shop 3646 Garner Mailing Address
Pantego, TX 76013 1813 W. Tucker
817-460-3856 Arlington, TX 76013
Fax 817-583-6266 E-mail: schwettmammarvin@sbcglobal.net

**LAW OFFICE OF
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1304 WEST ABRAM STREET LOCAL: 817-274-2905
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SHANEGOETZ@SBCGLOBAL.NET FACSIMILE: 817-861-8909

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conserve Arlington's
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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller



The landscape
belongs to the
person who
looks at it.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Wildscape Update **Marylee Thomason**

Tricked! Hornswoggled! Snookered! Bamboozled!

Yep. That's how they got Molly Hollar to agree to be Grand Marshal of the 2016 Fourth of July parade in Arlington.

Kevin Donovan, a longtime member of the Fourth of July Association board, was tasked with finding a grand marshal, someone who would symbolize this year's theme, "America the Beautiful," which is dedicated to those who keep Arlington looking good.

"Her efforts and dedication over the past 20 plus years represent all those who work to keep Arlington beautiful." Kevin wrote in recommendation of Molly, and the board unanimously agreed.

Trouble is Molly never likes to be the center of attention. She didn't even want the wildscape to be named after her, instead suggesting Julia Burgen. Some exceptional people have to be swept into focus despite themselves. Molly is one of those.

Knowing that Molly pretty much can't refuse anyone who asks a favor, Kevin and Carrie Donovan caught her off guard with a sly question.

"Will you do us a big favor?"

"Of course," Molly replied.

Kevin: "Are you sure?"



Molly: "You know I would do anything for the two of you."

Kevin: "Will you be grand marshal for the Fourth of July parade?"

Molly under her breath: "Darn!"

Ann Knudsen knew how to smooth the way, "It will promote the wildscape." Instantly, Molly was all in.

Healthy and fit at 86, but forever self-deprecating, Molly opined, "I think they like to have old people. They probably wanted someone who was 100.

When they couldn't find anyone, they decided to find someone who looked that old."

Surgery last month didn't faze Molly. By parade day she'll be well into recovery, she said. After all, she only has to sit in a convertible and wave like the illustrious Grand Marshals of yore: Allan Saxe, Nolan Ryan, Mayor Tom Vandergriff, Geraldine Mills, Tillie Burgin and W, when he was governor.

Not bad company. Molly fits right in.

July 4, 2016: Back in the Parade **Marian Hiler**

The 2016 Fourth of July parade not only gives us reason to celebrate the ACC float winning second place in the non-commercial category, but even better, Molly Hollar being honored as this year's Grand Marshal. She was the perfect choice for the parade themed "America the Beautiful" and dedicated "To those who Keep Arlington Beautiful!" Molly has dedicated decades to promoting natural areas, especially the

wildscape at Veterans Park and OS Gray Natural Area.

ACC's float depicted natural settings to say "Keep America Beautiful for Our Children." One of the things that I find particularly satisfying about working on the float each year is the challenge of making it from stuff that otherwise would have gone to the landfill. The nature scenes in this year's float included a chicken-wire heron wading

in a pond of plastic water bottles transformed into fish and used green plastic strapping turned into cattails; trees with bottlecap foliage and junkmail oak leaves; pizza box birds painted with pages from magazines and butterflies cut from orange and yellow fliers. The eagle soaring above the trees was mostly made of reused plastic knives

continued on page 5

Parade continued from page 4

and spoons, a Gatorade bottle and plastic bags.

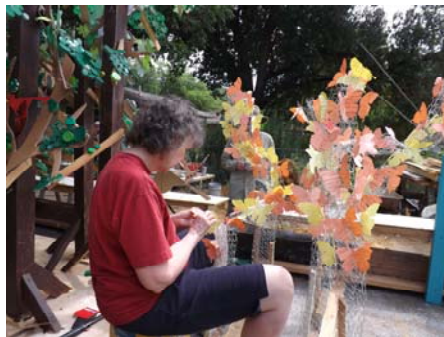
Another thing that makes me extremely awed and proud is the dedicated and creative crew that pulls a float together in time for the parade every year. ACC built its first float in 2004 and this year's 13th float seemed doomed. Ann Knudsen spent hours hot-gluing green bottle caps together for the tree foliage, only to find that the glue couldn't dependably hold up to the hot sun and gravity. So the team filled in with paper oak leaves saved from past parades. Parade day, Danny Kocurek, usually the first one to get to the parade parking lot to start working on the last-minute details, arrived as the rain poured down to find the float was

worse for the wear. He said he discovered our float had not washed away but was in need of a lot more last-minute work than we planned. The birds and the butterflies had wilted, the fish had changed color, and everything was soaked. But, like a bunch of manic squirrels, ACC members scurried around replacing and repairing, and somehow managed to get everything in place and looking fabulous in time to impress the judges. Instead of doomed, the float was a hit.

Thanks go to Jim Robinson who got the sound system and band up and running. Also, thanks to the band members Meg, Isabella, Jessa, Benjamin and Nicholas for returning again this year to play throughout the parade route.

Days before the parade, Jeana and Jennifer Hiler and Crystal Thomas were painting over 100 water bottles to look like blue fish. Peggy Quinn was stringing those fish in preparation for the pond. Hester Schwarzer and Candy Halliburton were cutting out butterflies and letters, respectively. Assembly took place at our gracious hosts Mike and JoAnn Kolanko's home, where Mike led the pit crew of Peggy Quinn, Wes Miller, Roy Miliner, John Darling, Frank Keeney, and Joe Wilson.

And last but not least, our enormous gratitude for the generosity of Lynn Schwettmann of Schwettman Construction for again lending his trailer, and Bob Dawson, for his truck. We could not have participated without you.



Parade Extra



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

GMO Labels Coming to Your Supermarket

In a hitherto unheard of paroxysm of activity, Congress actually passed *The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015* requiring the labeling of bioengineered foods or GMOs. Under the new law, signed Friday by President Obama, a bioengineered food product “contains genetic material that has been modified through in vitro recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid techniques; ...[that] could not otherwise be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature.” It is estimated that more than 80% of processed foods in U.S. stores contain at least one ingredient made with GMO crops. Last May's National Academies of Sciences report found no evidence that GMO crops have sickened people or harmed the environment. And just last month, 100 Nobel laureates signed a letter urging Greenpeace to end its opposition to GMOs, citing a strain of genetically engineered rice that would reduce vitamin A deficiencies causing blindness and death in children in the developing world.

Funding Wildlife a National Priority

The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 5650) seeks to dedicate \$1.3 billion in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to create a trust fund for the conservation of a full array of fish and wildlife [remember the Teaming With Wildlife presentation by Rachel Richter? This is it.] The bill, which was introduced by Don Young (R-Alaska) and

Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) in early July, follows the recommendation of a blue ribbon panel on sustaining America's diverse fish and wildlife resources to support the implementation of state wildlife action plans (SWAPs) with a dedicated funding source. “America's hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and boaters have been the primary funders of state-based conservation efforts” so far. ...“If we want to secure the future of all of America's fish and wildlife resources, a fundamental enhancement in how we finance conservation is essential,” says Jeff Crane, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation president. H.R. 5650 has been referred to the House Natural Resources Committee for review. While it is not expected to pass in this Congress, it may trigger discussions of alternate means of funding species conservation and management with greater state-level involvement.

Pizzlies and Climate Change

Since 2006 there have been several reports of polar and grizzly bear hybrids, or pizzlies, from the Canadian Arctic, but their occurrence became international news only last May when one was shot by a native hunter. Climate change is at least partly responsible for the rising number of pizzly sightings, as polar bears that live and hunt on the ever-shrinking Arctic sea ice are forced on land during mating season in spring and summer. At the same time, male grizzly bears are expanding their habitats, roaming into polar bear territories, and emerging from hibernation earlier in the year.

“What is unique now, is that there is a very real chance that a large portion of Arctic sea ice is going to disappear relatively rapidly, and so we will see many more examples of the two species meeting than has been the case before,” says evolutionary biologist Eline Lorenzen from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Some of the recent pizzly sightings in Canada are now second generation hybrids dominated by grizzly DNA. The dominance of grizzly DNA is a concern because polar bears' unique genetic traits that allow them to live on sea ice and survive on a high fat diet of seals might ultimately lose out to the dominant population of grizzlies.

Globe Life Park No More?

To hear the pros and cons of a new climate-controlled, retractable roof ballpark for Arlington, everyone is invited to attend the Heart of Arlington Neighborhood Association's meeting on August 8, 7 pm, in the Fireside Room of Grace Lutheran Church, Park Row at Pecan. And look for details in next month's *Post Oak*.



Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 pm

West Arlington Police Service Center, Community Room
2060 W. Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington, TX 76013

Parking is available in front of the building, via Ron McAndrew Drive.

Native Grasses for Habitat Restoration at Southwest Nature Preserve (and the associated plant community) Presented by John Snowden, Bluestem Nursery

What are the native grasses that might be seen at Southwest Nature Preserve? John will explain which grasses can be found in each of the different habitats represented in the preserve. He will identify other grasses and related plants that should be there, but no longer are. Last, he will discuss what we can do to help in the restoration of native plants to the preserve.

John Snowden researched the state of native plant landscaping in Texas and surrounding states while earning his MS in Horticulture from Texas A&M. His expertise and enthusiasm led him to open his own nursery, focusing on native ornamental grasses and related plants. At his Bluestem Nursery, the business philosophy is to promote natural habitat rehabilitation through education and the use of appropriate native plants that are also esthetically appealing. He has a special expertise in color evaluation in selection and breeding of native grasses.

For details, see www.swnp.org
or e-mail info@swnp.org



Spotted Knapweed found at Southwest Nature Preserve

Late last month, a new plant was noted along a right-of-way at Southwest Nature Preserve, but it was not welcome. An extremely fortunate series of events resulted in its correct identification as highly invasive spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*) and we hope, its eradication. Thanks to Bob O'Kennon (Botanical Research Institute of Texas), Jeff Quayle, and iNaturalist, it was accurately identified about the same time that Arlington Parks & Recreation Department contacted the Friends of SWNP about mowing that same right-of-way. The plant was in bloom with maturing seeds, but Bob, Diane Pierce, Mike McCorkhill, Wes Miller and others rapidly coordinated efforts to remove the plant and to survey the right-of-way for any others. None were found, but the site will continue to be monitored. This was only the second time spotted knapweed has been found in Texas.



Environmental Dates Julia Burgen

July – August

Noteworthy dates for our public lands and other special places and persons

July 6, 1911	Devil's Postpile National Monument 105th Anniversary
July 8, 1916	Acadia National Park established 100 th Anniversary
July 12, 1817	Oregon Caves National Monument 99 th Anniversary
July 12, 1855	First printed description of Yosemite Valley
July 12, 1817	Henry David Thoreau's birthdate
July 19, 1900	First auto in Yosemite Valley
July 24, 1909	Zion National Park 107 th Anniversary

"Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher"

William Wordsworth

August 1, 1916	Haleakala National Park 100th Anniversary
August 9, 1916	Lassen Volcanic National Park & Capulin Volcano National Monument 100th anniversaries
August 10, 1936	Joshua Tree National Monument
August 14, 1937	Appalachian Trail completed a continuous footpath
August 18, 1902	Margaret Murie "Godmother of the Conservation Movement" birthdate
August 25, 1916	100th anniversary of the National Park Service
August 27, 1974	Ozark National Scenic Riverways
August 31, 1964	John Muir National Historic Site designated in Martinez, California

"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order."

John Burroughs



Thanks to our Last Speaker



Omar Bocanegra and Grace Darling at the June ACC meeting.

At our June meeting Omar Bocanegra, US Fish & Wildlife Biologist, gave us a colorful and spirited introduction to dragonflies and damselflies. A wonderful topic presented by someone who loves the subject. You can't beat that combination, and it looked like a full house agreed enthusiastically. Thanks, Omar, we had a great time.

Fate of a Float

It's true, we really do like to make a point of trying for sustainability in ACC's July 4th parade floats. After all, given our name and mission, what choice do we have? And, of course, that's the way we want everything to be.

Sadly, that's not true for everyone. Here's an extreme local case of waste in an old commercial float — even the trailer is returning to the earth, but not in a good way.



Brexit Redux Grace Darling

The outcome of the Brexit referendum reflects the rising tide of a certain sort of political power, nationalism, and anti-immigrant sentiment that is now sweeping through Europe and the U.S., as evidenced by the popularity of an unusual presidential candidate. Though the discussion is couched in political terms, the arguments for leaving a greater union, both then and now, largely focus on money. Specifically, today's Brexiters complain about the high cost of regulations that they believe only serve to stifle innovation, limit business opportunities, and hamper production.

For instance, the CEO of U.S. Global Investors writes that “among the costliest regulations are the Renewable Energy Strategy (4.7 billion pounds sterling a year), the Working Time Directive (4.2 billion a year) and the EU Climate and Energy Package (3.4 billion a year)” [Frank Holmes, Investor Alert, June 17, 2016]. Evidently, environmental and labor laws designed to

protect our natural resources, check climate change, and improve workplace conditions are favorite targets of modern Tea Partiers.

In defense of regulations, I offer the following examples of charters, legislative acts, executive actions, standards, and rules that have had enormous positive effects on American lives over the past 240 years. Let's make sure they stay on the books.

Antiquities Act
Atomic Energy Act of 1946
Atomic Energy Act of 1954
Clean Air Act
Clean Water Act
Coastal Zone Management Act
Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
Endangered Species Act
Energy Policy Act (1992; 2005)
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
Federal Power Act [hydroelectric plants,

created the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] (1920)

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Food Quality Protection Act
Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens)
Lacey Act
Marine Mammal Protection Act
Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Mineral Leasing Act
National Environmental Policy Act
National Forest Management Act
National Historic Preservation Act
National Park Service Organic Act
Noise Control Act
Nuclear Waste Policy Act
Ocean Dumping Act
Oil Pollution Act
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
Rivers and Harbors Act
Safe Drinking Water Act
Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act
Toxic Substances Control Act
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Box Turtle Bathtub

This old trash can lid has served as a low-rent birdbath for several years, and there's no doubt that whitewings, bluejays, and cardinals love it. And at least one extremely nervous brown thrasher.

But last week there was a three-toed box turtle, cooling off and making the case for more wildlife-friendly yard features, even if they're not exactly elegant.



On a Different Note

It's business as usual when a new parking lot goes in and you've got a whole lot of dirt that just has to sit somewhere. Good thing trees don't have voices.

It's hard to look at now, but in a few years the view will be a lot worse. Makes you think we haven't learned a single thing about the value of trees.



SQUIRRELS AT MY WINDOW

Squirrels at my window
Wrap around the feeders,
Picking out the sunflower seeds
As if born for that.

And perhaps they were:
I've been feeding squirrels here
For thirty years.

I wonder what effect I've had
On squirrel society in my vicinity.

Squirrels evolved across millennia
To forage forests, scavenge shrubs,
But in a single generation
Learned these plastic tubes
Are restaurants, cafes –

Much as the local bobs
Have learned to like
The taste of puppies, cats,
So conveniently corralled
Behind suburban fence,

An unintended lesson
Made all the more effective
Since the student motivation
Mates hunger with convenience.

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Phone _____	Supporting \$40.00	Renewing member ☐
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Don't Forget!

Wednesday, August 3
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Ray Rentschler
Dealing with Wildlife