

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL

POST OAK

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

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 3

APRIL 2017

www.acctexas.org

April Meeting

Update on Arlington's Parks and Open Spaces

Lemuel Randolph,

Director, Arlington Parks & Recreation Department

Wednesday, April 5, 7 pm

**Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram St
(corner of Fielder and Abram)**



Come get an update from our parks director and learn about his goals for the future. Now in his third year with APRD, 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 23 years of experience directing municipal parks and recreation departments, Mr Randolph has also worked for the cities of Missouri City, Sugar Land and San Bernardino.

Bring Something for the Raffle

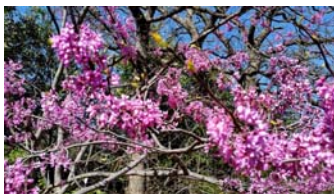
Bits & Pieces

A Life in Litter

Here's an argument for messy garden beds: the rough earth snake is a mini-predator, shyly lurking under leaves, rotting wood, and debris in general. Here it pushes its way through loose soil with its pointy nose, seeking earthworms and other small invertebrates. The mother retains the eggs as the babies develop inside. The young are fully formed and emerge as she lays the eggs. This small predator is totally harmless, but it needs some mess, so let's leave as much as we can put up with.



Today's inspirational moment



Nature is often hidden,
sometimes overcome,
seldom extinguished

Francis Bacon

Classical Compost

If you crave environmental inspiration, here's a wonderful story from Fort Worth Magazine posted on March 27 that contains an unlikely character. From an article by Scott Nishimura:

"Miguel Harth-Bedoya, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra music director, puts his name behind a big passion, launching a start-up food compost collection service while the Fort Worth Symphony was on strike."

[Find the whole story here.](#)

Photos by Alex Lepe



From the President Jan Miller

Spring ain't for sissies in Texas and April's no exception. There's the rough and tumble of politics, with our state legislature in high gear, local council and bond elections, and couple more things you really shouldn't miss this month. Earth Day, always on April 22. This year consider joining the March for Science on that date at noon in Fort Worth, and on April 29, the People's Climate March in Dallas at 10 am. Wildflowers and our great outdoors, of course: Do not miss them in their spring splendor. Native plant sales (and landscape prep) — make your lists and spread the word.

Got your iNat app logged on and ready for Texas' first-ever step up to the national City Nature Challenge, April 14-18? Engage in the challenge anywhere in Tarrant County, or represent our home base events at OS Gray NA or SW Nature Preserve on April 15 — more in this issue! And most important, if you value safe drinking water and stable ground under your feet and property, get informed on the Bluestone/Lake Arlington waste water injection well issue: Read on, more in this issue!

Join us for ACC's April 5 meeting, and please invite a friend or neighbor. Thanks!



THE POST OAK

Published 10 times a year by
Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216, Arlington, TX
78004-0216.

John Darling, Editor
1darling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

John Blair, Jim Domke,
Candy Halliburton, Jan Miller,
Wesley Miller, Marylee Thomason

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

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Fax 817-583-6266 E-mail: schwettmammarvin@sbcglobal.net

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1304 WEST ABRAM STREET LOCAL: 817-274-2905
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013 METRO: 817-265-2902
SHANEGOETZ@SBCGLOBAL.NET FACSIMILE: 817-861-8909

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conserve Arlington's
natural resources.

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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller

It seems to be a constant contradiction of itself. It is delicate, yet resilient; it appears to be simple, but closer inspection indicates that it is extremely complex; it may appear monotonous, but it is diverse and ever-changing throughout the seasons.

James Stubbendieck



Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

Greenhouse Supplement

When the growing gets slow, the growers get going. That is certainly true of greenhouse coordinator Josephine Keeney.

Less demand for plants to populate the wildscape left the greenhouse crew with excess energy, so Josephine proposed growing native plants for the city to use in community landscaping. The parks department gratefully accepted.

“We’re going to supply them with flame acanthus, autumn sage, Texas lantana, coralberry, cherry laurel, inland sea oats and Lindheimer’s muhly,” she said. “All very reliable plants.” So far, volunteers have potted 80 Turk’s caps for city use.

Sacrificial Lambs

Over two Wednesday workdays, henchmen for Ann Knudsen prevailed in their mission to remove the non-native liriope from the poison ivy swamp next to the zigzag bridge.

Turk’s cap replaced the offending foreigner, but the wily poison ivy,



The greenhouse growing crew: left to right, Charley Amos, Josephine Keeney, Kay Seiko, Joe Martinez, Hester Schwarzer, Glen Troutman, and Jo Poppelreiter

which kept hidden throughout the conversion, struck back. Almost all of the workers contracted The Itch.

Dawn Hancock, Jim Landers, Carol Marcotte, Joe Martinez, Jane Oosterhuis, Rosalie Rogers, Marylee Thomason and Sandy Van Meer — feel free to feel their pain. Only crew boss Ann Knudsen mysteriously escaped.



Rosalie Rogers, foreground, and Joe Martinez



Ann Knudsen, foreground, and Sandy Van Meer



Jane Oosterhuis, left, and Josephine Keeney

Remember the battery-powered hedge trimmer donated to the wildscape by the Native Plant Society of Texas? Above we see Jane Oosterhuis with two rechargeable battery packs that can be shared with Ann Knudsen’s trimmer. Josephine Keeney holds the new trimmer, chosen specifically because it can share batteries with Ann’s.

Bits

Thanks to our last speakers

Who would have thought that we'd see a good crowd and three enthusiastic speakers all gathered at the March meeting to discuss solid waste management in Arlington? It happened, though, when Vince Hrabal and David Hildreth of Republic Services and Jennifer Shaver, the city's Environmental Programs Coordinator, gave us the big picture and expertly fielded questions. And as environmentalists, we had wanted to know a lot.

These folks really seem to like what they do, and they demonstrated what a pleasure it is when experts enjoy sharing their knowledge.



David Hildreth, Jennifer Shaver, and Vince Hrabal

SUNSHINE

Every day
Cats remind me
Where the sunshine is
By finding it,
Following.

How difficult a lesson
Can this be?

©2017 John I. Blair, 1/30/2017

Butterfly Boost

Candy Halliburton

Wayne and I have lived in our house for two years and in that time have worked on turning our neglected yard into a place where bees, butterflies, Texas spiny lizards, and bugs of all kinds want to hang out. In that time I have seen some butterflies flutter by, but only one or two black swallowtails, and their caterpillars are my very favorite.



Last year I planted a couple of dill plants, and lo and behold, one of them reemerged, and just in the nick of time. In the past several days, five black swallowtail caterpillars appeared, one at a time. After I spotted the first two, I drove over to Redenta's and bought two more dill for Wayne to plant because caterpillars are very hungry. Just ask Eric Carle.



Early stage (bird dropping mimic) larva of black swallowtail butterfly

Disposal well by Lake Arlington?



Disposal well between Fort Worth and Aledo. Photo by Jim Domke.

Jim Domke wrote recently to draw attention to a proposal for a salt-water injection well on the western shore of our water-supply reservoir. Are we keeping up with "...news about the disposal well proposal, pros and cons. There are a lot of [gas] wells already near Lake Arlington and they haven't affected our water — other than using a lot of it. ... I read how the quakes in Azle were caused by over-injecting salty water into three disposal wells. Once they reduced the quantity the quakes stopped."

City officials from here and Fort Worth have expressed concerns about water quality as well as the possibility of damage to the dam. A [Star-Telegram editorial](#) opposes the well.

Most recently, a [Star-Telegram article by Max Baker on March 30](#) provides details of a meeting between Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, Arlington mayor Jeff Williams and officials of Bluestone Natural Resources II, the company proposing the disposal well.

Southwest Nature Preserve and OS Gray Natural Area Jan Miller**Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, April 18, 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.

The Woodbine is good for you and Texas*by Dr Arthur Ehlmann*

This geologic formation is not only important as the ground you live on, but it is one of the most historically valuable rock layers in Texas oil and gas history. The talk will include origin of the formation and what's known about it in a regional geologic context. Dr. Ehlmann is Emeritus Professor of Geology at TCU and continues research on meteorites at the Oscar E. Monning Collection.

UTA's Big Event**Saturday, April 8**

9am – 1pm

Volunteers are needed to guide UTA student volunteers in a restoration planting project. Please contact info@swnp.org if you can help.

City Nature Challenge**Saturday, April 15**

1–3pm

Please join us! More in this issue.

Bird ID Workshop and Quarterly Survey**Saturday, April 22**

Beginning bird ID class (optional) at 8:00 am. Registration required due to limited seating. Everyone's welcome to join in the survey; meet at 8:30 am at the SWNP parking lot. See details and registration at the link below.



For more information about Southwest Nature Preserve,

see www.swnp.org

or e-mail info@swnp.org.

Southwest Nature Preserve & OS Gray continued from page 6**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's City Nature Challenge**
OS Gray NA 9 am-noon and SWNP 1-4 pm
Saturday, April 15

Sam Kieschnick, DFW Urban Biologist, TPWD, is organizing a regional urban nature challenge for DFW as part of a state and national initiative, and two Arlington Parks & Rec sites, OS Gray Natural Area and Southwest Nature Preserve, are part of the effort. Here's some background that Sam provided:

Last year, Los Angeles and San Francisco participated in a city-wide competition to see who could get the most citizen scientists to make the most observations of the most species. The tool that they used was iNaturalist (online network for citizen scientists with an associated app for smart phones), and LOTS of folks were engaged (1000 people made 20,000 observations of nearly 2000 species). After the event, citizen scientists retained the tool and still make lots of observations — and are actively engaged in the outdoors. This is a big deal.

The folks at California Academy of Sciences and Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the institutions that led this effort, have decided to extend the competition to any interested cities and urban areas in the US. Austin, Houston, Chicago, D.C., Miami, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and some others are already on board. Dallas/Fort Worth will also be competing.



Saturday, April 15

BioBlitzes at Arlington Parks

O.S. Gray:
9 am - noon

Southwest Nature Preserve:
1 pm – 4 pm

Free program!
Bring a camera or smart phone and your curiosity!

Leaderboard and to participate:

www.tpwd.texas.gov/naturechallenge
For questions and concerns, contact Sam Kieschnick
Sam.Kieschnick@tpwd.texas.gov

continued on page 8

SW Nature Preserve & OS Gray continued from page 7



City Nature Challenge: Austin vs. Houston vs. DFW

Download the iNaturalist app • Observe • Take photos • Save • Upload • Share

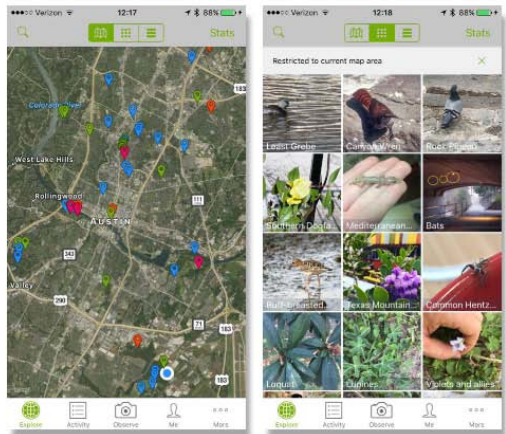
Which city has the most species? Any observations of plants & animals you find in the participating counties between April 14th-18th will count for the challenge!

To find out what has been seen nearby:

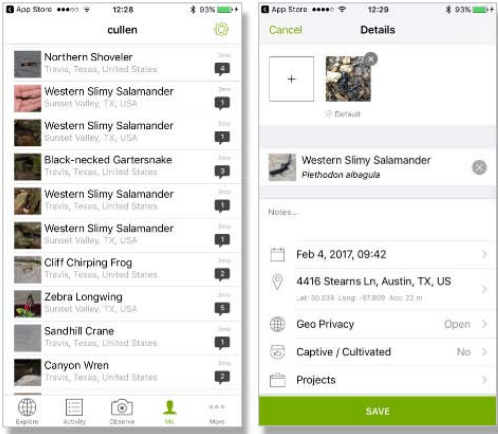
1. Tap 'Explore' to find nearby observations
2. Tap grid to see observation photos







How to record observations:



1. Tap the camera icon (iPhone) or + icon (Android) to add an observation; tap camera icon to add more photos
2. Enter name of plant or animal, tap search to find a match
3. Tap save, repeat
4. Tap 'Upload' or 'Sync' (in the green bar) to share your finds




For leaderboard and details:

www.tpwd.texas.gov/naturechallenge







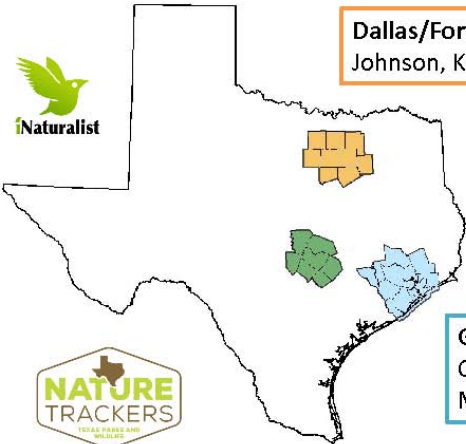
City Nature Challenge: Austin vs. Houston vs. DFW

April 14th-18th..... Which city will win?

Any observations of plants & animals you find in the greater metro areas of Houston, Austin, and Dallas/Fort Worth will count for the challenge! Plus, we will be competing against Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other cities from across the nation. Let's teach them not to mess with Texas Naturalists!





Dallas/Fort Worth Counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise

Greater Austin Area Counties: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson

Greater Houston Area Counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller




For leaderboard and details:

www.tpwd.texas.gov/naturechallenge





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THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
PO Box 216
Arlington, TX 76004-216

Don't Forget!

Wednesday, April 5
Fielder Museum
7 pm

Lemuel Randolph***Update on Arlington's Parks and Open Spaces***