

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 9

OCTOBER 2017



October Meeting

Regional and Local Water Conservation Initiatives for Long-term Water Supply

Dustan Compton,

Regional Conservation Program Manager, Tarrant Regional Water District

Wednesday, October 4, 7 pm

Fielder Museum

1616 W. Abram Street (corner of Fielder and Abram)

Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) is a raw water supplier for all or parts of an 11-county area within North Texas. TRWD operates a series of water supply lakes to support approximately 2.1 million water users. Population is expected to double within the next 50 years and water supply planning includes conservation to meet the growing need. Conservation is the long-term approach of using water more efficiently today so that it may be available for additional use tomorrow. Various indoor/outdoor, advertising, education, partnership, customer, technology and innovative-supply programs are in place or in the planning stages. This presentation will provide an update on water supply conditions and conservation initiatives.

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From the President Jan Miller

Last month started with Arlington's mayor and city council proclamation recognizing the 2017 City Nature Challenge. Many ACC folk, Master Naturalists and other nature friends were in attendance to see Sam Kieschnick and Rachel Richter, our TPWD urban biologist all-stars, receive the award. In Sam's remarks, he noted the accomplishments of Texas and particularly DFW in the first year of participation. It was a BIG win, in the top three of each of three categories on a national scale and a great demonstration that our metropolitan area still has lots of wild left — and that there are people who are excited about it, find value in it and are eager to share that news. In 2018 City Nature Challenge goes international, and DFW is so ready!

It's almost time for Arlington's premier green event, EcoFest, on Saturday, October 21, 10 am – 2 pm (<https://naturallyfun.org/ecofest/about>). Volunteers are needed to prepare displays and staff ACC's "Fix-It-Green" tent; watch for dates to be announced during the two weeks before EcoFest.

Vote early and often, well, once per day, until October 7 anyway. That's for Green Source DFW's Sustainable Leadership Awards. There are many great nominees this year, including ACC member Hester Schwarzer for Volunteer and ACC for Small Nonprofit. The top three vote-getters in each category on October 7 will proceed to the finals, with winners announced November 9. Please support Hester and ACC. Here's the link:

www.greensourcedfw.org.

Read on for more fall events and info in this October issue. Thanks as always to our contributors. Enjoy!



ACC POST OAK

Our mission: ACC works to protect Arlington's natural environment through education, community service, and advocacy for a sustainable future

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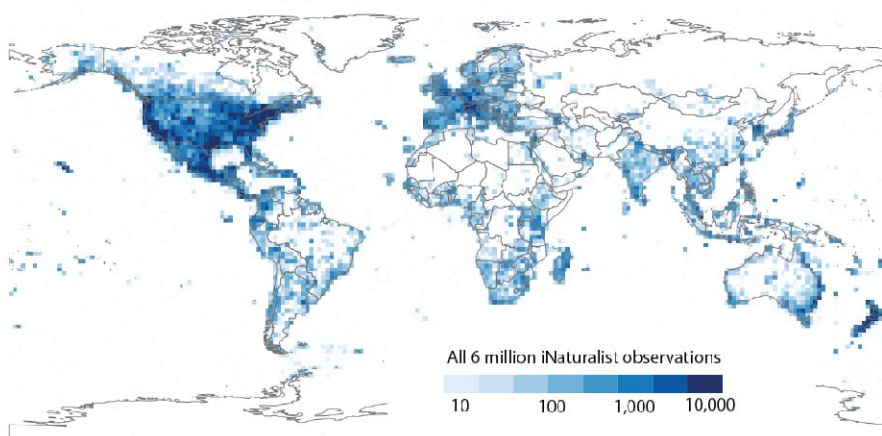
Roadrunner at SW Nature Preserve. Photo by Bob Brennan

Bits & Pieces

iNaturalist Success

From a [recent iNat blog post](#): We hit 6 million observations today! It's been a very active and awesome summer since we hit [5 million observations](#) just 80 days ago. This will be a hard stretch to beat as a lot has happened. In fact, we launched [image recognition in the iNat iOS app](#) the same week this most recent 1 million observation stretch began!

If you can spare a lot of time, check the third map; it lets you see observations from any place you've ever been — or wanted to be.

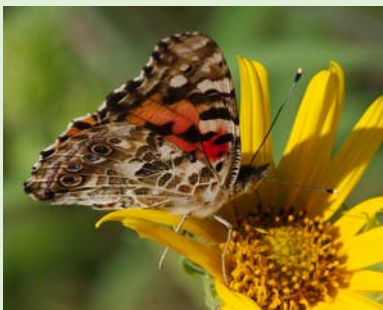


Butterfly Bounty

Can't get enough butterfly information? If you haven't already, you really must look at dallasbutterflies.com and you will be rewarded with the Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society site. They've thought of everything, including a timely section, What's on the Wing, that you will find by scrolling way down on the left side of the home page.

And for those of us confused about our tropical milkweeds, here's edited advice from the site: [In September] Do NOT cut back your milkweed! Monarchs you are seeing now are BREEDING Monarchs and need milkweed, so don't cut your Tropical Milkweed back until the end of September. (*Update: Consider cutting them around October 9 — Josephine Keeney.*) These breeding Monarchs are both our resident Monarchs and an influx of individuals that filter in every year as part of the "pre-migration migration." The peak of the Monarchs that are migrating to Mexico won't hit North Central Texas, on average, until the second week of October, with stragglers lasting well into November.

Painted lady by Bob Brennan



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www.acctexas.org



Inspiration

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.

George Eliot

**Join us and act locally.
Use the handy
application form
on the back page.**

Birding Takes Off

Some very encouraging news from Bird-WatchingDaily.com: Report: 86 million Americans watched wildlife in 2016, a 20 percent jump from 2011.

The Department of the Interior announced a new [report](#) this week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that shows that 101.6 million Americans — 40 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older — participated in wildlife-related activities in 2016, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching.

[The survey](#) illustrates gains in wildlife watching — particularly around the home — and fishing, with moderate declines in the number of hunters nationally. The findings reflect a continued interest in engaging in the outdoors. These activities are drivers behind an economic powerhouse, where participants spent \$156 billion — the most in the last 25 years, adjusted for inflation.

86 million wildlife watchers

PHOTO BY BRETT BILLINGS/U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller



Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so that each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry.

Richard P. Feynman



More Bits

Thanks to Our Last Speaker



ACC Treasurer Marian Hiler with Stephen Sturdivant.

Another good crowd last month, and another excellent talk. EPA environmental engineer Stephen Sturdivant presented “Food Too Good to Waste” and right away made the connection so often overlooked by environmentalists: Food production fundamentally conflicts with the natural world in terms of habitat destruction, pesticide and fertilizer overuse, topsoil loss, air and water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and water use. Agriculture is by far the biggest use of water. As we waste a third of our food, we’re making the environmental situation that much worse.

Thanks, Stephen. This is a huge, largely ignored topic and we’re indebted to you for bringing it to us so effectively.

There’s much more at the [EPA website](#), and you’ll find a related story [here](#) about a legal change that now lets Texas schools waste less food.

Swallowtail Sighting

One small victory worth celebrating is finding giant swallowtail butterfly larvae on a Hercules club tree in the wildscape. Jane Oosterhuis made the discovery when inspecting the eaten foliage. Ann Knudsen counted eight well-camouflaged caterpillars. Mission accomplished.



IF TREES SLEEP

If trees sleep at night
When I still wake
I wonder if they dream.

What form
Would tree dreams take?
Sunshine, breezes, rain,

Or might they dream of us?
If so, for my heart’s sake,
I hope they’re happy dreams.

©2016 John I. Blair,
10/27/2016

Solar Decathlon Underway Now

Local solar authority Jim Duncan has suggested that we could be interested in the biennial U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, which is a collegiate competition made up of 10 contests that challenge student teams to design and build full-size, solar-powered houses. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends design excellence and smart energy production with innovation, market potential, and energy and water efficiency.



No Texas teams are competing this year, but Jim thinks that groups from UT and A&M have participated in the past. This seems odd partly because Texas is such a natural for solar power and because we have so many schools of architecture.

Despite the Texas absence, you will find information and great stories at the [Solar Decathlon website](#).



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

If you're going in for surgery, certain questions run through your mind. How many years in medicine do your doctors and nurses have? How many times have they done this procedure? What does their website tell you?

The September 16 wildscape native plant sale was a smooth operation. Lead surgeon Josephine Keeney has planned and executed (perhaps an unfortunate choice of words) these endeavors nine times. Her team of professional volunteers brings 115 years of experience; many hold advanced degrees, including Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and Master Composter.

Customers wanting information ahead of time visited the wildscape website to find descriptions and pictures of the plants. One admiring couple exclaimed over the online flyer: "I don't know who does your



website, but it is gorgeous! Everything was there. So much information about the plants and beautiful pictures."

Webmaster Frank Keeney's talent shines through the gallery that he

maintains for the wildscape and the Native Plant Society of Texas. Lest the praise go to his head, Frank is assigned the tasks of putting up directional signs, writing sales tickets and loading pots into customers' cars at the sale.

Molly Hollar's cousin Darlene came to buy and got a nice surprise: Carol Shinsky brought Molly to the sale. It was a treat for everyone.

Molly was in her final week at the garden home across from the park



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Wildscape continued from page 8



while waiting for repairs to be completed on her Trinity Terrace apartment.

The sale raised \$3,515.50 for the wildscape. Five hundred eighty-nine plants sold, out of 1,136 offered. "The plant sale went very smoothly, thanks to all the caring people who came to help set up and work the sale," Josephine said. "It was a hot day, but it didn't keep us from working together and accomplishing our goals of making the less common native plants available to the public and educating people about butterflies and pollinators."



Thanks in alphabetical order to the team that worked with precision to make this operation so smooth and successful.



Charlie Amos — setup
Gailon Hardin — sale
Marian Hiler — sale
Brian Keeney — setup and sale
Frank Keeney — setup and sale
Josephine Keeney — setup and sale
Ann Knudsen — setup and sale
Danny Kocurek — setup
Joe Martinez — setup and sale
Larry Norris — setup and sale



Jane Oosterhuis — setup and sale
Jo Poppelreiter — setup and sale
Dick Schoech — setup and sale
Hester Schwarzer — setup and sale
Kay Sekio — setup and sale
Carol Shinsky — sale
Marylee Thomason — setup and sale
Glenn Troutman — setup and sale



Styrofoam Local Recycling Update Marian Hiler



South Oak Cliff site

For the last 4 years, I've been saving what most of us refer to as Styrofoam, which is the trade-marked name of expanded polystyrene (EPS). I wait until I have two or three giant-sized bagsful to make the long trek to Waxahachie so I can drop them off at the Dart Container Corp collection center for recycling. (See "A Recycling Challenge" in the June 2013 edition of the Post Oak).

That is, until now. I recently discovered – thank you Jeff Whittington, host of KERA's *Anything You Ever Wanted To Know* – that Dart opened another foam collection center in south Oak Cliff in late 2015. I no longer have to take up all that garage space until I have enough to make the trip worthwhile. The same recycling guidelines apply to the Dallas location that were reported in the June 2013 article.

I have unsuccessfully tried to find an even closer foam collection facility in the area where I could drop off EPS at no cost. Let me know if you are aware of one.

Recycling Guidelines

Who: the public

What:

- Clean food packaging, transportation packaging
- No straws, lids, plastic wrap or trash
- No packaging peanuts (not all peanuts are polystyrene)
- No foam insulation

When: 24 hours, Monday-Sunday

Where: Dart Container Corporation [https://](https://www.dartcontainer.com/)

www.dartcontainer.com/environment/ps-foam-recycling/

4444 West Ledbetter Drive, Dallas, TX 75236 (access via Joseph Hardin Dr on the west side) and 850 Solon Road, Waxahachie, TX 75165

How:

- Make sure your foam has the No. 6 chasing arrows symbol.



- Place foam in clear, sealed bags.
- Place packaging foam and food service containers in separate bags.
- Food service containers MUST be clean and rinsed.

Entrance to South Oak Cliff site



Milkweed Marvel photos by Josephine Keeney

Another month, another interesting and valuable vine thriving at the Fielder House Museum butterfly garden. This time Josephine has pictured the climbing milkweed vine, *Funastrum cynanchoides*, which has been thriving after recent rain. Despite its climbing habit, this is a real milkweed that serves as a larval host to monarch and queen butterflies. So if you have a fence in partial shade, this looks like a beautiful way to help endangered butterflies.



Fort Worth and Food Waste John Darling

Star-Telegram, September 15

The column by Cynthia M. Allen feels very strange to an avid composter and half-crazed treehugger who worries about the environmental consequences of food waste (see page 7) and of building gigantic new landfills.

The piece begins with a nightmarish description of backyard composting that tells us the author doesn't have a clue. Hey, Ms Allen, just stick a mess of dry leaves in that slop and it

will be fine — no mess and almost no odor. Composting 101.

The rest of the column is totally different — a supportive overview of Fort Worth's recently adopted and very progressive 20-year comprehensive waste management plan.

The plan appears to emphasize solutions for the needless loss of landfill space now taken up by food waste and yard trimmings. It includes a possible economic incentive for backyard composting; considering

sites for a privately operated large-scale compost facility that would handle every compostable thing, possibly even biosolids; and evaluating food scrap collection from businesses. And they want to increase traditional recycling, too.

The only omission in this overview is the reason regular people should want to participate: the enormous costs associated with building a new landfill. If you can reduce waste by a third, your landfill will last longer and you will save money.

Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Special Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting

Saturday, October 28, 4 – 8 pm

4th Anniversary Celebration at the Preserve 5201 S. Bowman Springs Road, Arlington, 76017

No 3rd Tuesday meeting and program will be held this month. Instead, we're celebrating the 4th anniversary of the preserve's dedication. Several activities are being planned, starting with the quarterly birdwatching class and survey at 8 am, then hikes, pond activities, refreshments and a review of recent and planned projects starting at 4 pm. Please RSVP; more information soon at www.swnp.org.

North Texas Giving Day

Thanks to all Friends of SWNP who donated on North Texas Giving Day, approximately \$1000 was raised for future projects (the final figure won't be known for a few more weeks, as CFT bonus funds are calculated). The Friends hosted a table at Arlington Tomorrow Foundation's celebratory event at Levitt Plaza on the evening of NTxGD and we were surprised with an additional grant of \$625, a share of \$20,000 divided among participating small nonprofits. None of it would be possible without Green Arlington Foundation's designating the Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve as the beneficiary of its NTx Giving Day donations. Thank you!

For more information about Southwest Nature Preserve, see www.swnp.org or e-mail info@swnp.org.

Spreading the word at the Levitt celebration. Below, Jim Frisinger and Jan Miller. Upper right, Grace Darling and Jan Miller. Lower right, Jim Frisinger, Grace Darling, Jan Miller.



continued on page 13

Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 12

Updates

Pollinator/monarch project Dirt's been flying at the pollinator/monarch project site: Many loads of topsoil and compost were delivered, spread, tilled in and smoothed over. A large load of wood chips is on site and on 9/30, Friends Bob Brennan and Laura Capik (*right*) marked a trail. Several nodes will be placed along the trail, allowing for photographs "in the wildflowers" without getting off-trail or into tall foliage. After the wood chips are placed for the trail, planting is next. Stay tuned for a planting date for seeds, milkweed and native grass plants. Volunteers will be much appreciated!



Jim Frisinger and Laura Capik at the pollinator garden/prairie restoration area.

Eagle Scout project David White's Eagle Scout project is finished! On September 9, the first of two workdays, David organized his troop, plans, and materials to install color-coordinated markers on each of three trails. It was a warm day and hard work, but they completed digging all of the marker holes and placing posts with concrete, each carefully measured for location, depth and verticality. David and his troop were back on September 23 for kiosk construction, installing and painting the kiosk back. They also spread four cubic yards of decomposed granite for the trail leading to the kiosk. Doors and printed content are in-progress, with a final photo-op coming soon. A beautiful, much needed, and very impressive job by David and his crew. Thank you! (*See more Scouts in action on next page.*)



Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 13

Center, David White, Eagle Scout Candidate surrounded by members of Boy Scout Troop 615 and our own stalwart Parks & Rec crew led by Jay Falgout. Thanks to their efforts we now have three marked trails and a much improved kiosk.



Photo credit: Jay Falgout, APRD



Assault on Public Lands Julia Burgen

It is with great trepidation that I learned about a bill that will open up our special protected areas to multi-use including road construction, off-road vehicles, hunting, and extraction of coal, oil, and gas. The bill is opposed by a large number of national environmental organizations.

The Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act proposes to make drastic revisions to our public lands, lands that belong to all of us and that are intended for certain non-consumptive uses. Under the Department of Interior there are national parks, national wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historical trails, plus conservation areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management including national monuments (cultural, historic, natural features). The Secretary of the Interior is Ryan Zinke, a former Navy Seal and Montana congressman.

Our first National Park was Yellowstone, established in 1872; Yosemite was created in 1890; the National Park Service began in 1916. It was not until 1964 that a special Wilderness Areas act was established. It



Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and friend

was the outcome of years of intense effort by some of the giants of our natural history: Gaylord Nelson and Bob Marshall, principal founders of the Wilderness Society in 1935; Aldo Leopold (author of *Sand County Almanac*, an environmental bible), Howard Zahniser, Harvey Broome, Sigurd Olson, Olaus Murie and Wallace Stegner.

The concept of naming special wilderness areas recognized that growth and changes in the U.S. would overwhelm remaining areas that are examples of our precious past. A visit to them is special — my backpack trips in the Weminuche Wilderness in Colorado are a key part of who I am.

If the SHARE Act concerns any of you, I suggest that you inform yourselves about this dangerous piece of legislation and then communicate

your concerns to your U.S. Representatives and Senators.

Editor's note: The SHARE Act was written by the NRA and mostly eliminates restrictions on ammunition, silencers, and the free interstate transfer of firearms. But it also contains a number of provisions designed to weaken environmental protections; many call it the anti-wilderness act.

The act passed the House in 2016 and was defeated in the Senate. It was brought back this year but on October 3rd Speaker Paul Ryan cancelled scheduled hearings on the SHARE Act before a vote in the wake of the Las Vegas massacre.

Does this mean it's gone for good? Almost certainly not; as always, we must keep watching and be ready to oppose the act whenever it appears — and whatever it's called.

wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org

**"Sportsmen's
Heritage and
Recreational
Enhancement
(SHARE) Act Would
Gut the Wildernes...**

Pioneer Parkway/Spur 303 Green Ribbon Project



Adapted from Naturally Fun September 18 - 24 because this sounds like lots more trees and native plants for our city.

Arlington was awarded a Green Ribbon Grant by the Texas Department of Transportation for landscaping enhancements to the central median of Pioneer Parkway/State Hwy 303.

The project includes a 10-mile span of construction to enhance the aesthetic of the highway, increase urban tree canopy cover and minimize urban air pollution. Improvements include landscape beds with permanent irrigation systems and native plants: ornamental trees, ornamental drought-tolerant grasses, native shrubs, and 75 shade trees.

"In 2008 we began 'Green the Oaks', a program that kicked off a beautification initiative throughout the city," said Gary Packan, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director.

'Green the Oaks' was focused on greening up medians, specifically on our pilot plot along Green Oaks Blvd, which still continues today.

"The Pioneer Parkway Green Ribbon project continues that initiative thanks to our partners at TxDOT. Our department has planted thousands of trees since 2008 and will continue to beautify the city utilizing grant funds when available."

Construction began in late March and is expected to be substantially complete early January 2018. The project will exclude medians that reside within the City of Pantego.

On November 10, 2015, the City Council passed minute order, authorizing the execution of a Local Project Advance Funding Agreement with TxDOT of Fort Worth for Supplemental Transportation Program Green Ribbon Project in the amount of \$400,000.

As the project design progressed, planners realized additional funding would be necessary to include enhancements at key locations. TxDOT approved a request for an additional \$150,000 on August 8, 2016 bringing the total of the grant to \$550,000.

"We are pleased to have received additional funding from TxDOT. This has allowed us to include enhancements at key intersections and add more shade trees along the highway," said Mitali Mandlekar, park project manager.

For additional information about this project, please contact City of Arlington, Park Project Manager, Mitali Mandlekar at 817-459-5478 or Mitali.mandlekar@arlington.gov

Last modified on Thursday, 31 August 2017 15:27

City Nature Challenge at City Hall

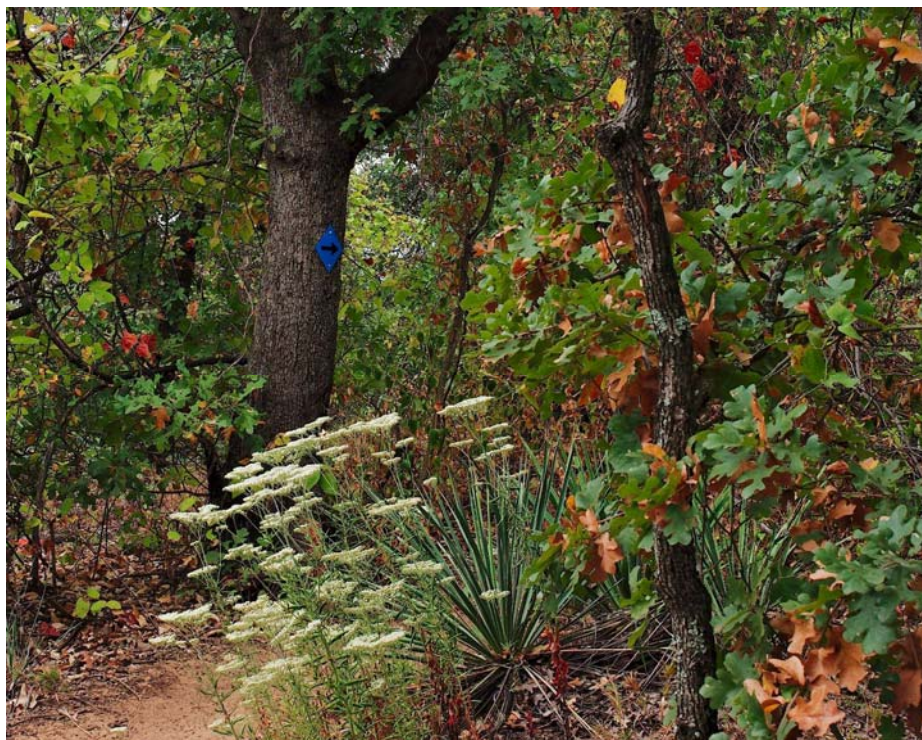
At the City Council meeting on September 5, Arlington recognized the remarkable contributions of everyone in the metropolitan area who contributed to our national win in the 2017 City Nature Challenge. The best part: Our two Texas Parks & Wildlife Urban Biologists made time to attend. The other best part: Sam Kieschnick made it very, very clear that lots of us place great value on natural areas. Obvious to us, but not often heard in council chambers.

Left to right: Urban Biologist Sam Kieschnick, Council Member Sheri Capehart, Mayor Jeff Williams, Urban Biologist Rachel Richter.



Speaking of Valuing Natural Areas

Master photographer Bob Brennan recently posted this shot of an ordinary part of the Southwest Nature Preserve. We may well have walked through this spot many times but never paused to see it as art. But here we are, and thanks to Bob, somehow it has become unforgettable.



OWL IN THE NIGHT

Three o'clock in the morning;
An hour ago the moon went down.
Suddenly through the gaping window,
Open for air in the gasping night,
A chilling call, a warbling cry,
An owl, shrieking somewhere near,
Either in anticipation
Or in triumph at its kill.

Ours is a placid neighborhood,
Held in a large and settled city,
Tame by standards
Owls have defined.
But shivering at that owl sound,
Momentarily I could be found
Deep in the primal forest
Of my affrighted mind.

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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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POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
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October Meeting**Wednesday, October 4****Fielder House Museum**

**Regional and Local Water Conservation Initiatives
for Long-term Water Supply**

Dustan Compton