

ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POST OAK

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February Meeting

What Is the Texas Wildlife Association and How You Can Get Involved

Sarah Grella,

TWA North Texas Education Program Specialist

Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 pm

Fielder Museum

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



The Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) is a nonprofit striving to connect Texans of all ages with the outdoors through meaningful and informative interactions. Attendees will gain an understanding of the many program avenues through which we achieve this goal. Local volunteer opportunities with the TWA L.A.N.D.S. Intensive and Trinity River Program will be discussed.

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From the President

Jan Miller

Thanks to everyone who participated in ACC's 2018 kickoff party, our annual Saturday potluck brunch on Saturday, January 13! Good food and good company as always, and comments submitted are much appreciated. Here are just a few: organizing ACC-sponsored fieldtrips, such as to Fort Worth Nature Center, working with community gardens and City of Arlington, supporting efforts to reduce adverse effects of light pollution, and suggestions for ACC programs. Maybe you've thought of something since then?

Opportunities to participate with ACC always exist: if you've ever considered serving as an ACC board member, please contact an existing board member or reply to info@acctexas.org. As we all know, the needs and opportunities are great, and there's no better place to start than our own community. Please consider volunteering your unique talents with ACC, as a board member, team member, newsletter/website contributor, participate in an outreach event, or suggest a new project.

We'll look forward to seeing everyone at ACC's first program meeting of 2018 on Wednesday, February 7. As always, thanks to our contributors and to our devoted newsletter staff — and to you dear reader, 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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15th of every preceding month.
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Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger

Tree good. Light bad. <http://www.darksky.org/>



Visit us on the Web
www.acctexas.org



Water's Back



Seems like a very long time since we've had a winter home for the hundreds of ducks that once relied on the drying beds at the Village Creek Water Treatment Plant just outside of North Arlington. Recently officials there have pumped enough water to attract dozens of ducks. Highlights last weekend: Buffleheads and a couple of Canvasbacks.

Inspiration

Perhaps the time has come to cease calling it the "environmentalist" view, as though it were a lobbying effort outside the mainstream of human activity, and to start calling it the real-world view.

Edward O. Wilson

From Texas Discovery Gardens

Thanks to the North Texas Master Naturalists for our new Hummingbird Garden, dedicated in memory of Jim Varum, and to all of our volunteers! During the State Fair alone, 374 volunteers gave 3,274 hours.

Your year end donation to Texas Discovery Gardens will go directly to our mission of educating children and adults about sustaining the natural world.

<https://txdg.org/support/>



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

Question Corner John Darling

Today's question is one of those that sounds simple but isn't simple at all: "I read that in a big poll of priorities, Americans ranked climate change 18th out of 20. How can this be? I spend so much time worrying about it, and so do my friends."

So many things to consider here, but here's the easiest: It's a good bet that you have friends who share many of your concerns — it's that bubble we're so good at putting ourselves into.

What about the poll? It's probably the one on the right, and despite the low ranking, it does show that climate change was a priority for almost half of the respondents. And that number changes drastically depending on how the questions are asked (no surprise).

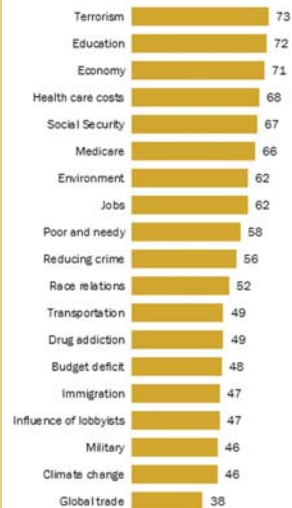
For a detailed discussion, you really should read *The Atlantic* article, [What Americans Really Think about Climate Change](#) from last Earth Day. Maybe the saddest part concerns our differences in terms of partisan politics. Many of us think the issue must somehow transcend politics, but it simply doesn't — or maybe it can't, at least not yet.

That issue is one small part of a completely different take on the subject from Treehugger: [Climate change is a disaster for millennials, an inconvenience for boomers.](#)

Will it help to know why it's so hard for America to act on climate change? I hope so, but for now all we have is hope, and all those little things we do every day. Recycling anyone?

Public's policy priorities for 2018

% who say ____ is a top priority for Trump and Congress



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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conserve Arlington's
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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve

photos by Wes Miller



No winter lasts forever;
no spring skips its turn.

Hal Borland



More Bits

Thanks to Our Last Speakers

Those speakers were mostly you, and there was a lot of speaking about all kinds of things at the January ACC potluck and business meeting. And President Jan Miller was busy, too. She reviewed our activities during the past year, presented the EcoFest raffle winner with his electric lawnmower, and recognized Grace Darling with the latest Post Oak Award.



WASP NEST

In August our wasps do not rage.

Suffused with chrysalis commitment
They silently tend their paper cage,
Soaring one by one to seek
Nectar from abelia and myrtle blooms.

For them life seems sweet
With endless heat of Texas summer days
And this lush garden at their feet.

They pose no threat to us nor we to them.

We leave each other be, though either kind
Is capable of dealing pain.

The painful times will come without our aid,
For them the winter frost, for us
The stings that age will bring.

©2002 John I. Blair

Good Enough for Texas, But...

From an [NPR report](#) : According to multiple media outlets, the White House plans to withdraw its controversial nomination of Kathleen Hartnett White to head the Council on Environmental Quality. ...Citing anonymous administration officials, the [Washington] Post says Harnett's nomination couldn't win enough favorable support, "with some Senate Republicans raising questions about her expertise."



Hartnett White has drawn criticism for her comments on climate change. The former Texas regulator [Chair of TCEQ] has a history of questioning established science that man-made greenhouse gases are a major contributor to climate change.

As the *Post* noted, when [Hartnett White testified](#) before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, "she said that while humans probably contribute to current warming, 'the extent to which, I think, is very uncertain.' "

"Hartnett White suggested that climate regulation is a conspiracy pushed by communists," Mose Buchele of member station KUT [reported in November](#).

Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

Way back before the flu season attacked and winter weather started cancelling work days, Danny Kocurek, president of the Molly Hollar Wildscape board of directors, suggested writing a grant proposal to the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation. The request was for \$5,000 to repair and update the kiosks and signs. In January the grant was awarded. Look for new maps and themes soon.



Another January accomplishment is the official signing of the by-laws that provide the code by which wildscape business will be conducted. This board could show the U.S. Congress a thing or two about the spirit of cooperation with the intent to benefit the whole. Thanks to all board members for their hard work: Marian Hiler, Frank and Josephine Keeney, Danny Kocurek, Ann Knudsen, Joe Martinez, Carol Shinsky Marcotte, Jane Oosterhuis, Peggy Quinn, Hester Schwarzer, and Glenn Troutman.



Yes, it's still January and cold outside, but in Texas it's better to give plants a good start getting their roots settled before the demands of summer. With that in mind, a brave band of volunteers is scouting locations for planting young Redbud and Mexican Plum trees from the greenhouse.

Since it has been so cold, the latest mini class was held inside at the home of Marylee Thomason. With humor and props, she presented centipedes, the cheetahs of the insect world. Some of these little critters can run so fast that if they were man-sized, they would be streaking along at 40 mph.

Centipedes are dangerous nocturnal predators to creatures small and fairly large. Not only are they fast, but they use venom to paralyze their victims until they are eaten.

Centipede sizes range from about an inch to more than a foot long. The big ones eat bats, rats, mice, frogs and birds. It is rumored and *might be*

true even though it has never been documented, that super-sized centipedes eat pets and small children.

That is, of course, not true. But this IS TRUE. House centipedes (about an inch long) are among the most beneficial creatures you can have in your home. They eat flies, fleas, termites, ants, bed bugs, spiders and cockroaches. You don't have to watch, Just turn out the lights and go to bed. These little guys will clean up their mess and be out of sight by morning light.

That is our January report. We hope you stayed snuggled warm in your house on the cold days and will venture out to the wildscape when the weather permits.

2018 is going to be a very good year.



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

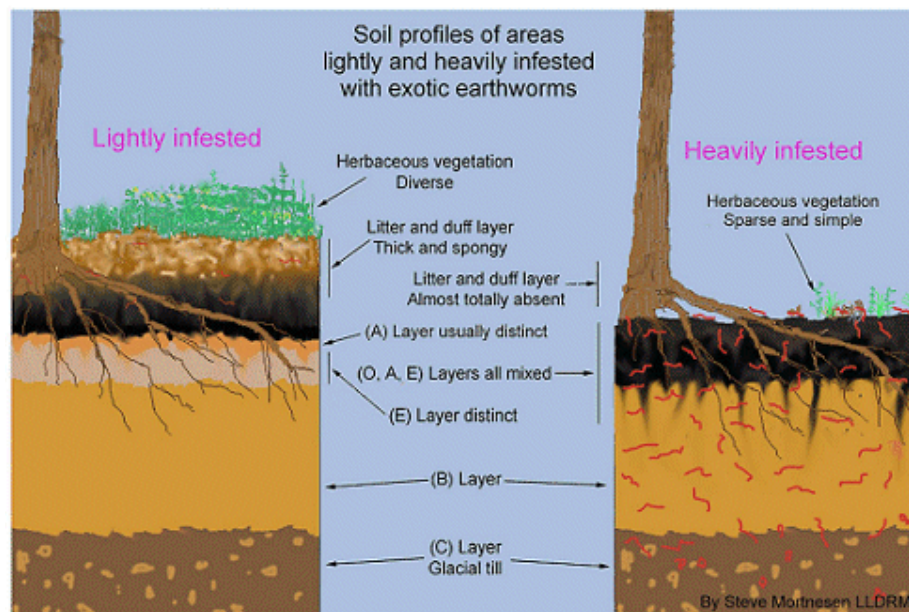
Tilapia to the Rescue From

LiveScience.com, Jan 26, 2018. A fishy treatment has helped heal two black bears and a mountain lion whose paws were badly scorched in the deadly Thomas Fire, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This past December, the CDFW trapped the three wild animals and treated their burnt paws with a homemade burn salve. Then, veterinarians sutured on an experimental bandage — sterilized tilapia skin — to cover the salve and help the animals' paws heal, the CDFW reported. The treatment worked so well that wildlife officials released the two adult black bears (*Ursus americanus*) back into the wild on January 18, the CDFW said.



Alien Worms Harming Northern

Forests From LiveScience.com, October 29, 2013. Gardeners and farmers may love earthworms for their rich castings and composting help, but in forests near the Great Lakes, the creatures are alien invaders. No earthworms are native to North America's northern forests (massive ice age glaciers kept the land worm-free). But in the years since settlers arrived, 15 earthworm species from Europe and Asia have appeared in Minnesota. Some of the invasive species are changing local forests, scientists have discovered. The earthworms eat away at the puffy duff layer blanketing the forest floor, where species such as salamanders and ovenbirds live. Duff is



fallen organic material such as leaves, slowly decomposing on the ground. And in the sugar maple forests near the Great Lakes, the churning worms actually compact the upper soil layers instead of loosening them. The compaction decreases downward water flow through the soil, drying out the upper soil layers. The worms also change the soil chemistry, decreasing levels of calcium, potassium and phosphorus. The net result is a loss of understory plants — the young trees, ferns and wildflowers that grow in the spaces between big trees. And without the duff layer, some animals lack a place to live.

Feeling the Heat From

LiveScience.com, January 18, 2018. While 2016 still stands as the hottest year of all recorded time, Earth's long-term warming trend continues, and 2017 now ranks as one of the top three hottest years on record, according to a report released today by NASA and NOAA. Analysis by NASA scientists showed that 2017 was the second warmest year on record, with global average temperatures across land and

sea surfaces measuring 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit (0.90 degrees Celsius) above average temperatures from 1951 to 1980. Meanwhile, NOAA researchers placed 2017 as the third warmest year, reporting global average temperatures as 1.51 degrees F (0.84 degrees C) above average. While the agencies' assessments vary in small details, "the overall picture is very clear and coherent, . . . pervasive across the planet, . . . and remarkably uniform," said a top scientist. In the Arctic, which is warming faster than the rest of the planet, 2017 brought declines in sea ice, with record lows reported from January through March. Antarctica's sea-ice cover was also greatly reduced, measuring about 154,000 square miles smaller than it was in 1986, the previous record-holding year. Snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere was also below average by about 160,000 square miles, according to the NOAA report. Sea ice and snow cover loss create a feedback loop that can accelerate global warming; with less albedo (fewer reflective surfaces), more sunlight is absorbed, driving surface temperatures even higher.

Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, February 20

Basic Considerations for Grassland Restoration

Suzanne Tuttle

If you're planning to undertake an ecological restoration of a grassland area, where should you start and what might you expect? This program will give you recommendations, advice and observations gleaned from both technical resources and the personal experiences of the presenter.

**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

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

Coming Up

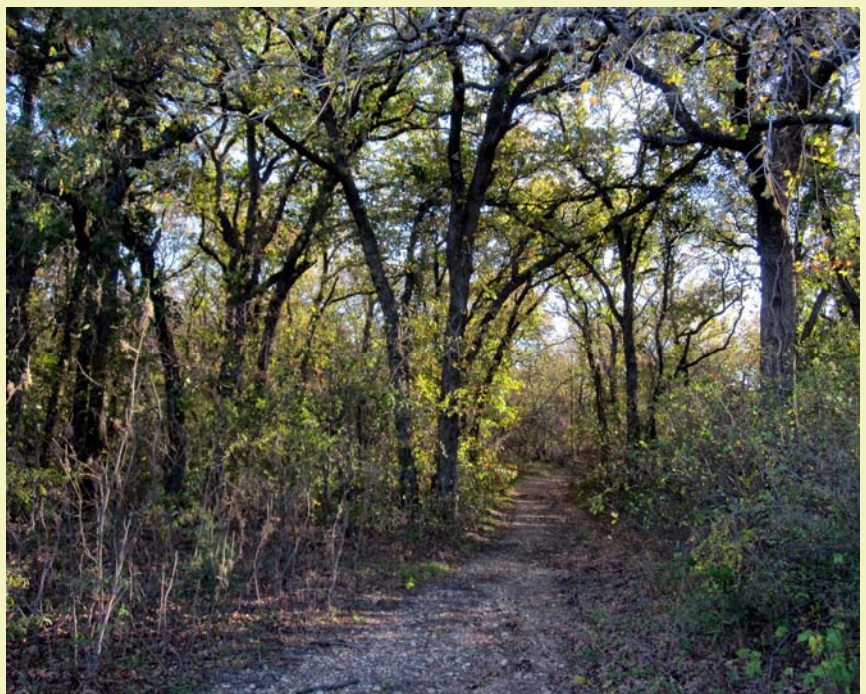
Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 17, 8:00 am SWNP
It's been eleven years and counting for this project at SWNP. Everyone's welcome, from beginner to advanced. Several habitat types are represented at SWNP, each with their own bird communities, which makes for great birding. Coming soon, details on the website and Facebook.

Update

Pollinator/Restoration Project

Planting Day #2 will probably be done just before you read this, but watch for Planting Day #3, probably on a Saturday. This effort will be devoted to potted milkweed and grasses that must be installed while it's still winter. If you can help, please contact info@swnp.org.



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? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216. Contributions and dues are not tax-deductible. Note: If you cannot pay, please let any board member know. The only available newsletter format is electronic, and it can be obtained via e-mail and the ACC Web site.

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**Back to Fielder
Museum**

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**Back to Fielder
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Fielder House Museum

***What Is the Texas Wildlife Association
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Sarah Grella