

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2018



Adder's Tongue at Southwest Nature Preserve



April Meeting

iNaturalist Wants You!

Annabelle Corboy

Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 pm

Fielder Museum

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

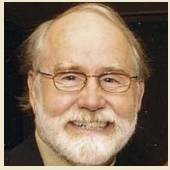


On April 27–30, 65 cities in 17 countries around the world will participate in the third annual City Nature Challenge. Seven urban areas in Texas will be participating including last year's champion, Dallas/Fort Worth. Many local nature-centered organizations will be hosting events that will make it fun and easy to contribute to the D/FW team. The only requirement will be that you record your observations in iNaturalist. This evening's program will provide an overview of iNaturalist, including what it is and how it can help you learn about the natural world. We will emphasize practical, step-by-step instructions for the Smartphone App as well as the **iNaturalist.org** website.

Annabelle Corboy retired from Alcon Laboratories in 2013 after 39 years working in IT, R&D Applications. Since retirement, she has pursued her interests in nature and technology. Serving on the board for the Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve, she recruits speakers for the group's monthly programs and helps maintain the group's website and Facebook page. She has been an iNaturalist user since 2015. Though not an expert naturalist, Annabelle has become very familiar with how to use iNaturalist to appear to be one. She has developed a class for TCC NE Campus titled "Using Smartphone Apps to Explore Nature", with an emphasis on iNaturalist.

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From the President

Dick Schoech

Backpacking & Recycling



I spent a weekend in mid-March backpacking along Buckeye Mountain and the Caney Creek Trail in Arkansas. It was a Sierra Club hike, so we followed the rule that everything we backpacked in we took out. As the pictures suggest, it was a pristine area with fresh clean air and crystal-clear creeks. Spring flower-

ing trees and wildflowers were just beginning to display their splendor.

The stars at night were big, bright, and awe-inspiring like I remembered them growing up on our farm. I can't remember seeing any trash during the whole trip.



Driving the interstate highways back to

Arlington, going 75+ mph with multiple trucks and zigzagging cars, quickly

thrust me back into the harsh DFW environment. Our neighborhood parks, especially the creeks, are filled with trash heading to their resting place in one of the huge garbage patches in our oceans. The water in our creeks and ponds is a greenish brown color, often with a foamy substance on top. The

stars at night are small and hard to see. The contrast between my backpacking trip and DFW couldn't have been greater. So, what can be done?



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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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Deadline for submissions is the
15th of every preceding month.
Please send them to
ldarling@sbcglobal.net

Bits & Pieces

The Slightly Less Terse Treehugger

Flames pretty. Burn night and day, even when it's 82 degrees and people sit far away.

Pollution and cost and waste bad.



DFW Bigger. And Better?



Once again we read in the Star-Telegram that we continue to gain more people: "The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area's 146,000-resident jump in 2017 was the most of any metro area in the United States." Our state demographer says, "If you look at Tarrant County, it has what I would

consider healthy growth." Huh? In the same article we find links to pieces on transportation challenges and the FW landfill filling up fast.

Will it finally be too late when we begin to think of "healthy growth" as an oxymoron?

Visit us on the Web
www.acctexas.org



Reminder

The ACC members email group is only for ACC business such as meeting announcements. The ACC Yahoo group is for general discussion of environmental and sustainable ideas and issues. To join the ACC Yahoo group, go to <http://www.acctexas.org/> and click on "Send/receive messages from our Yahoo group." This will take you to the ACC Yahoo group site (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/arlintonconservationcouncil/info>) where you can subscribe and unsubscribe under the Group Email Addresses heading.

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

On a Related Note

Several years ago DR Horton, the country's largest homebuilder, saddened many of us by clear-cutting most of the post oaks on a site along Pioneer Parkway. No problems then, but late last year they cut post oaks and other trees they were supposed to protect along Randol Mill Road in far east Fort Worth. And no real problems now either, except some bad publicity and the expense of replacing those irreplaceable trees. For depressing photos, look at the staff report that includes this: *...the site had over 90% canopy coverage prior to development. The predominant species were post oak and blackjack oak.* But it's okay because they're really sorry. "We sincerely regret the over-clearing that has occurred, ...In a couple of places, we went too far. It's hurt us publicly. We are sorry for the mistake that occurred. We just want to make it right and move on."

Question Corner John Darling

Why is recycling so hard? And what does that have to do with mistletoe? And butterflies?

Last week I was throwing big bags of cans and plastic bottles into a recycling compactor when I saw trash in it. Some level of contamination means that the whole compactor load is thrown away. That's weeks of compressed cardboard, metal, and plastic that should have gone on to become new things whose production would have required much less polluting energy.

I pulled out the trash I could reach and carried it to the nearby trash compactor. It was hard to stuff it in because that compactor was almost filled with cardboard boxes, the kind of wood fiber most valuable to recyclers. But that's not all: A few feet away, workers were using a loader to lift large tangles of leafy branches into a dumpster — instead of hauling them as usual to a spot for chipping into mulch. When I objected, the crew leader assured me that the branches were trash because they contained lots of mistletoe. Taken by surprise and encouraged to shut up, I went about my business but couldn't stop thinking about those branches, destined to produce methane in the landfill instead of reducing erosion and saving water.

Was that necessary? Probably not, because mistletoe appears to be a serious threat only to already stressed trees. One local expert thought it's already so common that trashing infested branches just wouldn't matter. And there's this: Mistletoe berries ripen in fall and provide valuable winter food for several bird species. Not to mention this: Mistletoe is the only host plant for the great purple hairstreak, something much nicer than methane.



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GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John DYCUS

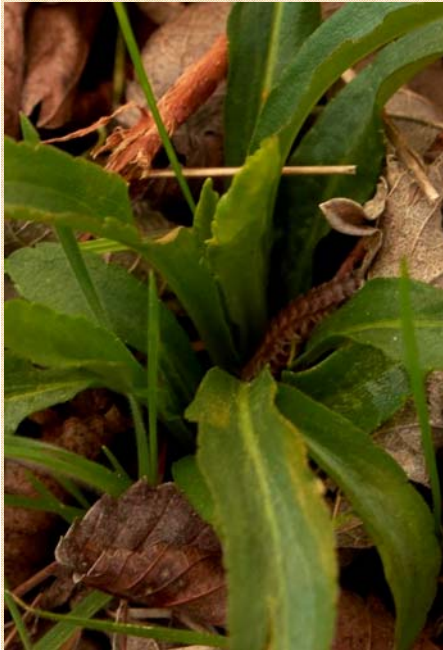
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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller



Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed...

Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.

Henry David Thoreau



More Bits

Thanks to Our Last Speakers



Left to right: Yoko Matsumoto, Candy Halliburton, Ayesha Hawkins, Wayne Halliburton

Last month the room was overflowing with members and friends who enjoyed an enthusiastic presentation on the green features of our new Central Library, which is intended to become a LEED-certified building. It won't just be a state-of-the-art Library; the building itself will contribute to the environmental health of our city. That's even more remarkable when we recall that only a few years ago a city committee spent months debating the merits of LEED certification.

It was inspiring to hear from Yoko Matsumoto, Director of Libraries, and her associate, Ayesha Hawkins, about the many green aspects of the building, and about the grant from Green Mountain Energy's Sun Club — its largest grant ever.

It was even more encouraging to learn that such things are exciting to people outside our little circle of sometimes pessimistic environmentalists. Not very long ago it just wouldn't have happened, and we were thrilled to learn about our wonderful new green building.

From the President continued from page 3



The solution is not rocket science. It is beautifully summed up by the old Pete Seeger song titled "If It Can't Be Reduced."

I encourage you to play it as you read the words to get you inspired for change.

The URL is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMVmgK5CE24>

The words go like this:

If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired
 Rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold
 Recycled or composted
 Then it should be restricted, redesigned
 Or removed from production
 Hooray for the city of Berkeley, etc.

Why can't Berkeley be changed to Arlington? After all, we are trying to be the Dream City. How can we make our dreams about our environment come true? There are ways.

ACC is supporting Texas Campaign for the Environment in its new effort to reduce Arlington's waste and improve recycling services. TCE held its kickoff meeting on March 22nd. Corey Troiani is North Central Texas Program Director for TCE and his article in this issue on page 11 highlights this effort to build a recycling culture in Arlington. During the kickoff event, Corey pointed out many disturbing facts, like Arlington only recycles 20% of its waste, and one third of DFW active landfills are leaking. Clearly, we can and must do better. Join Corey's effort or maybe take the pledge on reverselitter.com to pick up 10 pieces of trash every Tuesday. If you need a little motivation booster, listen to Pete Seeger sing "If It Can't Be Reduced."

Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

Blooming (as in flowering) trees are closely followed by blooming (vernacular) weeds. Wildscape volunteers are on the latter like bees on blossoms, but not with the same symbiotic results.



Dawn Hancock contemplating the patch of buffalo grass lawn alternative.



Left to right: Joe Martinez, greenhouse manager Josephine Keeney, Jane Oosterhuis, Diane Taylor, and Marylee Thomason.

For most people the first glimpse of the wildscape is from the parking lot. In an effort to make the best possible

comparison to the dull pavement, industrious volunteers remove the unwanted and transplant the wanted to make a pretty presentation of rock rose (*lower left*).



Left to right: Debbie Stimson, Josephine Keeney, Carol Shinsky-Marcotte and Sharon McGinnis improving the look of the east side entry corner by moving rock roses to better locations.

Along with weeding, native sedges and grasses from the greenhouse are being installed just in time for spring rains (*above*).

Visitors to the park are generous in their praise, but the volunteers don't do it for praise. They do it because it is fun to be out in nature with like-minded, industrious folks who provide the best camaraderie around.

Wildscape Extra Marylee Thomason

“Spring has sprung and the grass is riz (sic). I wonder where the flowers is.” Sung with a big smile by a wonderful family friend from my childhood.

Spring has indeed sprung, and the first responders are the trees.

Appropriately, the First Saturday mini-class featured David Coke, an enthusiastic coordinator of the Citizen Forester program offered by the Urban Forestry Council for the Cross Timbers region. Trained as an engineer, David now devotes his time to urban forestry work and education.

The Cross Timbers Citizen Forester program was established in 2006 and has trained more than 150 volunteers, who partner with their local city and county agencies to help care for publicly owned trees in church yards, schools and parks.

A combination of classroom and fieldwork prepares volunteers to identify trees, assess their health, plant, prune and help keep inventories. Less strenuous activities such as staffing educational outreach events and tree giveaways, completing urban forestry filing and data entry projects, and inspecting parade routes for overhanging trees and shrubbery make this a program for anyone.

Hester Schwarzer, who is a Citizen Forester on crutches, said she finds many opportunities to fulfill the time requirements that are within her abilities, including attending the



annual meeting in February, “which is always fascinating.”

Training classes are held on a rotating basis in different communities. Citizen Forester training, which began March 14 in Fort Worth, meets the second Wednesday of the month, promptly at 9 a.m., and continues to 4 p.m. For volunteers to get to know each other better, classes include lunch in the \$250 cost. Bring your own lunch and deduct \$100.

Certified Citizen Foresters are encouraged to volunteer 20 hours plus five hours of continuing education each year to maintain active status. Master Gardener hours count toward the 20.

“You will never look at trees in the same way after taking this training,” Hester says. “Every class gives you new insights and appreciation for trees in our environment.”



Ann Trenton



We mourn the death of Ann Trenton on March 11, 2018.

Quiet and easygoing is the way the world saw her. She didn't participate in group discussions or serve on boards of directors.

She liked immediate results. At the wildscape, she was one of the initial volunteers. For the first five years, she and Molly Hollar often were the only ones working. They planted, weeded and watered, and collected native plant seeds and cuttings from Veterans Park and propagated them for the wildscape.

She lived near the park and would come weed the beds when no one else was working. Molly would find the evidence, piles of weeds on the walkways, where Ann had left them. "I figured I did my part by pulling them. The parks department can do their part by picking them up," Molly remembers Ann saying.

Ann seemed to be entirely self-sufficient and self-reliant. Though she seldom talked about her earlier adventures, she grew up in Cuba, leaving in her teens when Castro took over.

Ann was a pleasure to be around. Always pleasant and always with a big, bright smile when something pleased her. She was one of those people you listened to when she talked because you knew she had something pertinent to say.

She was one of Molly's most loyal followers. When a group of volunteers changed

the work time or day, if Ann already had a commitment, she simply came at times and on days when she could.

She lived what she believed. When she learned about native plants from Molly, she wanted to convert her own yard to natives, which she did. Molly had a yard full of mature natives by that time and happily provided their offspring for Ann's garden.

Ann was a longtime member of Friends of the Library. Every year at the book sale, she would have a big box of books set aside for Hester Schwarzer. "She knew what I would want," Hester said.

People, plants, dogs — so many living things benefitted from Ann's loyalty, energy and determination. She fostered dogs rescued from shelters. She walked them in the wildscape, sometimes on two separate walks a day, if one didn't get along with the rest.

She helped care for Jennie Dycus in her final year. There were other people and causes — Ann cared deeply.

She was "someone for whom I had tremendous regard, an unusual special person I respected so much," Molly said. "She enriched my life."

Many heads are no doubt nodding in agreement.

Marylee Thomason

Some people are essentially *good*, making their journey through life with understanding and acceptance of others while adhering to their own high standards of honesty and integrity. My friend Ann Trenton was one of those. Though we knew each other for some 25 years and I was aware of her passion

for the environment, her fierce defense of human rights, her social justice volunteering and her spirituality, only recently did I learn of the many different ways she touched people's lives. In my case, it was with dogs.

Ann had a special rapport with dogs that was a source of wonder to all who knew her. She never met a dog she did not like and the feeling was mutual. Her packs were always the most obedient, playful, happiest bunch of pups you ever saw. The love between Ann and her canine crew manifested itself in rapt attention to the human, perfect behavior by the dogs, any number of tricks, and even dancing -- by both species. It was a beauty to behold.

Once, about 15 years ago, I adopted a shelter pup that became my soulmate, and I thought my life was complete. But Ann was militant for the cause of abandoned dogs, and suggested I should use Toby's nurturing personality and my spare time to save other dogs' lives by fostering. How do you keep from getting attached, I asked. Don't worry, she said: Think of them as only guests, but there is plenty of room in your heart and home and you are their only chance. And she was always there with advice and assistance in the more difficult cases.

Over the years Ann's dog family changed as individuals came and went, often passing over the rainbow bridge in her arms when their time was up. As Ann taught me, I will now try to fill the hole in my heart by passing forward her kindness toward neglected, pitiful pups. After all, there is plenty of room in our house and the need is great. Thank you, dear heart, for the example of a life well lived. I will miss you.

Grace Darling

Waste Reduction in Arlington Corey Troiani

On March 22nd, about 30 local residents participated in a workshop to initiate a waste reduction campaign in the City of Arlington. The workshop was organized by Texas Campaign for the Environment and Arlington Conservation Council, two groups that are concerned about the growing amount of recyclable materials that are wasted in regional landfills. Participants advocated for recycling initiatives in apartments, businesses, stadiums and public spaces as well as expanded collection of compostable brush material from neighborhoods.

Before the discussion, Corey Troiani, local program director for Texas Campaign for the Environment, briefed the packed room at the Fielder House Museum on the status of waste and recycling in the City of Arlington. Troiani presented the group with a map of apartment complexes and a handful of recycling drop-off sites that are sponsored by Republic Services and City of Arlington. According to the map, many apartment complexes are

located more than a mile from the nearest recycling drop-off. Since apartments in Arlington are not required to have on-site recycling services, many residents are inconvenienced by this lack of service. According to city data, more than half of all waste generated in Arlington comes from apartments and other commercial businesses.

Workshop participants identified a number of upcoming events and local organizations that could help leverage support for recycling initiatives, which would ultimately fall on Arlington City Council to approve. Texas Campaign for the Environment plans to dedicate staff resources to canvass in Arlington neighborhoods to build support for new waste reduction programs and put pressure on council to get this done.

Any Arlington residents who want to participate can sign up through [this website](#) or by emailing Corey at corey@texasenvironment.org.

LEAP OF FAITH

Squirrels do a lot of jumping
Off into vacant space
High above the hard earth,
One branch to another.

I idly wonder
When in their young short lives
They gain the faith it takes
To do that;

To step up to the edge,
The rim of their security,
Take one brief look
To estimate the distance,

Then jump across the gap,
Confident they'll make the other
side.

When did each one learn
To trust in their ability?

I know it's not a sure thing —
I've seen from time to time
A still small body
On a patio or walk

That missed a leap. A harsh
reminder
Faith is not a guarantee,
And confidence can lead
To ultimate disaster.

But there are a lot of squirrels
That leap and live; and this
Gives me the heart
To do the same.

©2014 John I. Blair



Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, April 17

Scat and Tracks

Kayleigh Medeiros,

Academic Programs Manager for Trinity River Audubon Center

Kayleigh will discuss animal evidence, specifically scat and tracks. Participants will learn how to safely examine scat and how to identify it. We will then discuss the tracks of an animal; participants will discover where to look for tracks, the parts of a track, and how to measure them.

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

City Nature Challenge at SWNP Saturday, April 28, starting at 4:00 pm

See what's in the pond and look for critters in the preserve with three experienced naturalists, Michael Smith, Clint King, and Nic Martinez. Come for any or all three activities.

4:00 pm – The Pond

6:00 pm – The Critters

8:00 pm – After Dark



It's easy to participate. Either join us on our nature hike or you can make observations on your own using the iNaturalist app. Take a picture of a wild animal, plant, or fungus, upload it to [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org), and the online community will help you accurately identify the species. The City Challenge will automatically find observations in the DFW area and add them to the challenge tally. DFW won the challenge in 2017 with the most total observations recorded. Help us defend that title this year! [Learn more about the City Nature Challenge here.](#)

Saturday, May 5: SWNP Tree Walk

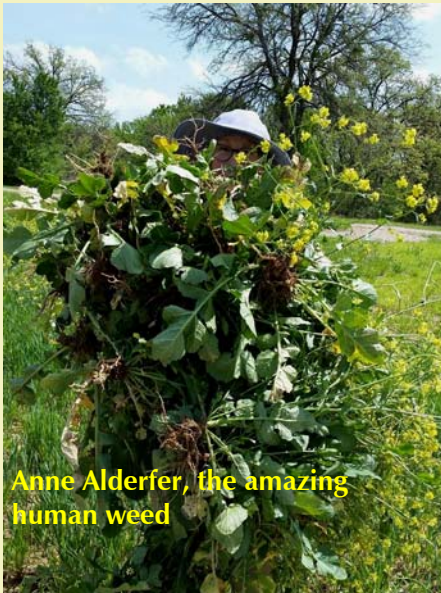
Jeremy Priest, City of Arlington Forester, will lead a walk along the trails, observing and identifying trees with a focus on historic trees. One of our post oaks might be 200 years old.

continued on page 13

Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 12

Bastard Cabbage Bash:

Jan Miller sent out a call for help removing the noxious weed before it set seed, and an energetic group responded on Saturday, March 31. Jan pulled her weight, along with Anne Alderfer, Annabelle Corboy, Barbara Fleischmann, Marge and Bob Dawson, Sandy Smith, and John Darling. The best part: They pulled every single repulsive B***** cabbage.

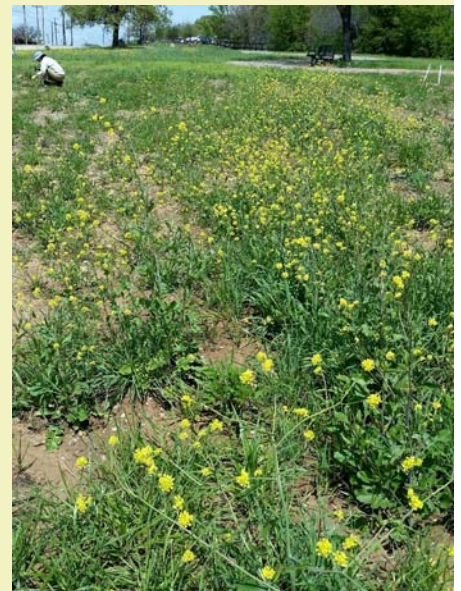


Anne Alderfer, the amazing human weed



Annabelle Corboy, Jan Miller, Anne Alderfer, and Barbara Fleischmann

Update: Pollinator Restoration Project



Jan, Anne, and Annabelle

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

Excerpted from current news reports

Aggressive government action averts crisis:

You may have heard of the severe drought in Cape Town and how they are coping. Here are some details (*Los Angeles Times*, April 1, 2018):

In South Africa, residents of Cape Town are restricted to just over 13 gallons of water per person, per day. Watering yards with bore water is limited to one hour Tuesdays and Saturdays — and totally banned with tap water. In fact, using tap water for any outdoor purpose is banned. Vigilant, even-handed enforcement is also key to their success. Builders are using recycled or bore water for cement and mortar. Some restaurants have abandoned pasta and boiled vegetables, while others have switched to paper tablecloths and napkins, or reuse water from ice buckets to mop the floors. The city plans to pump storm water into the ground to replenish aquifers.

High-income Cape Town families have cut their average water use by 80%, while low-income families cut back by 40%. Any household that blew the limit had a water restriction device attached to its pipes by authorities. Cape Town's achievement was the result of mass effort and learning new habits, such as quick stop-and-start showers, with a bucket in the tub. Any captured water is bucketed to toilets for flushing. Even before the drought, the city cut losses from leaking pipes to 15% of water, and once the city's six main dams dwindled, officials throttled back pipe pressure to reduce consumption. Hotels urge tourists to keep their showers short and flush toilets "only when necessary." Airport washrooms offer hand sanitizer instead of tap water.

Favorite quotes: "The elephant in the room is the fact that we normally use clean water to flush our toilets. Now, we're taking our gray water from our shower to our toilet in buckets. Imagine if that was automated. But that requires some engineering."

"Recycled water, including purified effluent, offers a cheaper [alternative water] source than desalination, but many governments are reluctant to embrace this [because of] a yuck factor. Changing the perception of recycled water will be key to the region's survival. Cape Town can't afford to see it as something that is dirty and must be thrown away. It's dirty, but it can be cleaned."

"It's not a result of any one hero. It's a result of agriculture taking a really big hit. It's a result of city engineers fixing leaks and reducing pressure and the willingness of 4 million Capetonians to play their part," says an official. "The mindset has changed. I think people have been quite empowered to find that they're capable of living with so much less water without being dramatically impacted," he says.

Why EPA and why not

Pruitt: (*Los Angeles Times*, April 1, 2018) EPA's Scott Pruitt has to go not so much because of the latest ethical allegations, but because he's a danger to the planet. The bigger issue is that when he's not flying luxuriously around the world, he's single-handedly imperiling the Earth by dismantling the EPA, undoing long-standing, bipartisan-supported rules and regulations, and arguing the wrong side of every environmental issue at a moment when the fate of the planet is up for grabs. (Reportedly, Pruitt is going to roll back fuel economy standards for motor vehicles in the next few days.)

The EPA came into being four decades ago for a reason. States were doing a lousy job of regulating pollution, which left skies smoggy, rain contaminated with acids and rivers and lakes laced with industrial toxins. The EPA hasn't always done a good job, but it has played a vital role in trying to keep our communities healthy and habitable. Pruitt has sought to undo that by ignoring science, distrusting the advice and professional conclusions of his staff and vigorously attacking regulations that evolved through years of deliberation. It's to the Senate's shame that it approved Pruitt's nomination despite knowing that as Oklahoma's attorney general, he had filed more than a dozen lawsuits challenging regulations and the legal authority of the EPA.

The hot reality is that global warming is real, and that it has already begun to affect the climate. Over the last four winters, the expanse of Arctic sea ice has been the lowest on record, which has endangered native settlements that rely on an iced-up coast to keep winter storms from eroding their land. Rising seas and related erosion also have forced the relocation of a village in the Louisiana bayou, and low-lying cities are now trying to figure out how to cope with coastal flooding.

As many as 20 million Americans could become climate refugees by the end of the decade, according to a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*. Climate scientists warn that droughts and flooding will worsen and that hurricanes likely will become bigger, stronger and more frequent.

Pruitt does not belong in public service. He's an embarrassment even to this administration.

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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Danny Kocurek
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