

ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POST OAK

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 7

JULY • AUGUST 2018

Our
float
in the
July 4th
parade



**SPECIAL
MEETING
LOCATION**



August Meeting

**Tour of the Renovations and New Exhibits
at the River Legacy Living Science Center**

**Becky Nussbaum,
Fund Development Coordinator, River Legacy Foundation**

Wednesday, August 1, 7:00 pm

**River Legacy Living Science Center
703 NW Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington, TX 76006**

**SPECIAL
MEETING
LOCATION**



The center is at **703 NW Green Oaks Boulevard**.

Ample parking is available behind the building. Use the entrance to the center where Cooper Street dead ends into Green Oaks Boulevard.

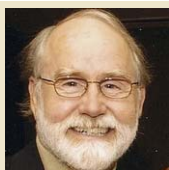
Description River Legacy Living Science Center houses interactive exhibits, native animals, and environmental education programs, including after-school and home-school nature science programs for kids. The center has recently undergone

a major \$2.5 million renovation of its educational displays and technology. Becky will show ACC members the new Discovery Room and how the new exhibits and technology enhance and support kids' education. For more details, see <https://riverlegacy.org/river-legacy-living-science-center>



Contents

- 3 From the President
- 4 Bits & Pieces
- 5 Question Corner
- 6 Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve
- 7 More Bits
- 8 Molly Hollar Wildscape Update
- 9 In Case You Missed It
- 10 July 4th Parade
- 12 Southwest Nature Preserve



From the President Dick Schoech

Learning from Tourism

When traveling to have a good time, we can learn much from visiting other countries. While sightseeing, we can observe how other countries have solved the environmental and sustainable issues we face. This is especially true for tourism in countries known for respecting their environment and having sustainable practices, e.g., Costa Rica. One example was highlighted in a recent NPR story on Rwanda, which is renowned for its cleanliness. Rwanda has a mandatory country cleanup day the last Saturday of every month. On this day, all shops are closed, vehicles parked, and Rwandans pick up litter, sweep streets, and do anything to clean up the country. Those not participating can be given a stiff fine by monitoring police¹. Most democratic countries take a less autocratic approach, but given all the overpackaging in the U.S., we continue to have a major litter problem. To see the problem locally, stand on the bridge spanning the West Fork of the Trinity River at River Legacy after a hard rain and watch all the trash float down the river. Or go to any major Arlington stream and see all the plastic bags caught in the trees after a rain. Arlington, the Dream City can look like a trash nightmare after a hard rain that exposes mounds of trash.



I visited Ireland for two weeks for a conference and sightseeing. One thing I quickly noticed is that there is little trash in the streets except in the heavily touristed areas. Trash cans are all over with educational messages like those in the attached pictures. Ireland has been especially progressive in eliminating single-use plastic. Getting your purchases in a plastic bag will cost you around 33 cents. Revenues generated flow to a fund to support waste management, litter prevention, and other environmental initiatives. Plastic bags now account for only 0.14% of total litter compared to 5% in 2002 when the fee was first initiated². Some current efforts to reduce plastic waste focus on eliminating plastic straws, which seem often to be a mandatory item when eating out in Arlington. Starbucks is taking one of the first US initiatives by switching to biodegradable paper straws in its more than 28,000 stores around the world³.

continued on page 7



ACC POST OAK

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

Published 10 times a year by
Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216, Arlington, TX
76004-0216.

John Darling, Editor
ldarling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

John Blair, Bob Brennan,
Grace Darling, John Darling,
Carol ShinskyMarcotte,
Jan Miller, Wesley Miller,
Dick Schoech, Marylee Thomason

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

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

Bits & Pieces

Return of the Terse Tree Hugger



Must be
summer.

Lessons in Native Landscaping

On the evening after our ACC meeting on August 1, get over to the Botanic Garden if you're thinking even a little about putting native plants into your landscape. Three down-to-earth experts will share their experiences with plants that work right here in our area.

**Native Plant Society of Texas, Thursday, August 2nd Meeting
6:30 pm, Orchid-Iris Room, Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center
Topic: Native Yards & Gardens**

*Presented by Sandy Fountain, Gailon Hardin, and Josephine Keeney
Longstanding chapter members, Master Naturalists, and plant sale champions*

Noted in Passing

Apparently cedar elms don't care if mulch is piled up around the trunk. But maybe it's better if we don't try this at home.



Visit us on the Web
www.acctexas.org

ON THE STEPS

John Blair

I sit on concrete steps
Looking at the garden,
Waiting for another gift.

And here it comes,
Floating down the path,
A butterfly lighting on a flower.

Then a bird selects a feeder
And settles in to eat,
Glancing at me for assurance.

Bees hum around the sedums,
A lizard dances on a branch,
Clouds drift above the heat.

The world is rich with gifts
All beautifully wrapped
In fur and feathers, air and sunshine.

©2018 John I. Blair,
6/26/2018

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

Question Corner John Darling

What is it about moths?

Today's question: How did [National Moth Week](#) pass by almost unnoticed? This time I was sure we'd hang up a sheet, rig a light, and hope to see one of the beauties like the Io or Luna. Then one thing got in the way of another, and I'm mothless, just pondering my biggest perennial lepidopteran mysteries: How does that fritillary get nectar



from a Turk's cap? And how do tiny yucca moths find yuccas in places where the plants occur in small, isolated patches?

Of course, there is the somber adult question to worry about, too: Will we live in a crumbling world without moths (and therefore bats) as many species decline rapidly? It doesn't bear thinking about. Let's just go plant some daturas and hope for sphinxes. (Moth photos from [here](#).)

The *Post Oak* will not knowingly accept sponsors who are deceptive, misleading, or expressly incompatible with its mission. The *Post Oak* does not endorse, advocate, or guarantee any offer, viewpoint or representation made by its sponsors.



Wild Birds Unlimited
1660 W. Randol Mill Rd.
Arlington, TX 76012
(817) 275-1000
www.wbu.com/arlintonx
Hours 10 - 6 Mon - Fri,
9 - 6 Sat, 12 - 5 Sun

Remodeling

General Contracting

SCHWETTMANN CONSTRUCTION CO.

Marvin Schwettmann Cell 817-229-6688
Brian Schwettmann Cell 817-475-9201
Lynn Schwettmann Cell 817-988-7078

Shop 3646 Garner
Pantego, TX 76013
817-460-3856
Fax 817-583-6266

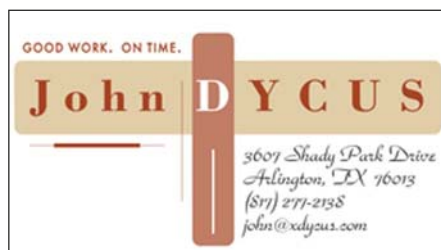
Mailing Address
1813 W. Tucker
Arlington, TX 76013
E-mail: schwettmammarvin@sbcglobal.net



Paul Krudsen's
ArlingtonNOW.com
Event Photography
Portfolio_Studio@yahoo.com
817.265.4441



3759 E. Lancaster St. Ft. Worth, TX 76105
Karen Foley 817-533-1152



Thanks A.C.C. for working to
conserve Arlington's
natural resources.



Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller



A world of grass and flowers stretched around me, rising and falling in gentle undulations, as if an enchanter had struck the ocean swell, and it was at rest forever...

Eliza Steele

Summer Journey in the West, 1840



More Bits

Thanks to our last speaker



ACC board member Grace Darling with
Walter Berk

At our June meeting, Master Birder Walt Berk spoke to us about the amazing phenomenon of bird migration, particularly as it relates to Texas. He addressed a great range of questions (How do birds know when to leave? And how to navigate?) Walt supplied examples of the many kinds of migratory birds and their movements. And he navigated through questions with practiced skill.

As birds face increasing challenges, it was timely to learn so much about a major aspect of their lives. Thanks, Walt, we do appreciate it.



From the President continued from page 3

Another thing to notice is that since Ireland's economy is good, many people are out in the streets enjoying themselves. Income inequality seems not as pervasive as at home. In the U.S., even with a strong economy, income inequality continues to grow⁴. Ireland has a good safety net with free health care, free college tuition, a highly ranked retirement system, and a strong safety net. Ireland ranks #21 in *U.S. News* ranking of 80 countries compared to the U.S. ranking of 8⁵. While prices are higher in Ireland than in the U.S., especially for luxury items like Guinness beer, the constant fear of financial ruin due to health or other issues does not seem to exist. I did spot several seemingly homeless people but they were in tents or sleeping bags on city park property at mid-morning. They seem to be tolerated more than in the U.S.

Global warming is taking its toll as Ireland is experiencing its hottest and driest summer in 42 years. Known for its 40 shades of green landscape, Ireland now has a lot of brown vegetation and looks a lot like Texas in early to mid-summer. They are under water rationing like many Texas cities.



So, while I enjoyed my visit, I was able to see several ways that we can improve Arlington's quality of life. Send your vacation experiences to the *Post Oak* to highlight things you saw that could help Arlington become the Dream City it desires to be.

1. https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/07/18/628364015/how-rwanda-tidied-up-its-streets-and-the-rest-of-the-country-too?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=news
2. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/ireland-can-lead-charge-in-war-against-plastic-1.3374066>
3. <https://news.starbucks.com/press-releases/starbucks-to-eliminate-plastic-straws-globally-by-2020>
4. https://www.epi.org/publication/the-new-gilded-age-income-inequality-in-the-u-s-by-state-metropolitan-area-and-county/?utm_source=Economic+Policy+Institute&utm_campaign=7c562c7fca EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2018 07 19 04 28&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e7c5826c507c562c7fca58189193&mc_cid=7c562c7fca&mc_eid=d075cc1967
5. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/ireland>

Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Carol Shinsky Marcotte & Marylee Thomason

Oh, Lord, it's hot. If hell is like this, I'm gonna be good!

Remember, not that long ago — 2014 — this area experienced 71 days over 100 degrees. That's little consolation when they're breaking game-time heat records out at the ballpark every day.

These temperatures are borderline calamitous for everything in the environment, including our precious butterflies. Dawn Hancock gave a very instructive talk at the First Saturday Mini Class in July on what to plant and how to help Monarchs survive. Plant more native butterfly milkweed, eliminate pesticides in your garden, and provide butterfly-friendly habitat in your yard with native plants. We can all do that.

The next First Saturday topic will be Sequestering Carbon in the Soil, presented by Marylee Thomason.

In deference to the heat, the monthly board meeting was held at Danny Kocurek's house. Promising developments include Parks Department plans to acquire four new

benches for the wildscape. Funds were given for these to be memorials. The city hopes to install more memorial benches.

Kay Sekio's proposal to coordinate work by greenhouse volunteers and the wildscape group was passed with enthusiasm. Her outline of ways to improve communication and use resources made good sense to the board members.



Jane Oosterhuis prepared for a watering day in her hat and red rubber boots

Teresa Day-Fickel, Ann Knudsen and Jane Oosterhuis met with city staff to proof the first four new wildscape signs. They suggested that the background have a watermark appearance as well as some color and a more interesting font and layout. They made changes to the selected wildlife topics and offered more descriptive pictures for some plants.

Joe Martinez has been in touch with Boy Scout Aiden Gonzales, who



Josephine Keeney keeping the butterfly garden in top shape

indicated that he submitted the necessary paperwork for his Eagle Scout project at the wildscape. No date for the project has been set.

Teresa Day-Fickel put the wildscape on createthegood.org, an AARP website that lists volunteer opportunities. Voly.org and nextdoor.com are two other sites where she will add wildscape information.

Some people always look on the bright side. Teresa Day-Fickel is one of those. Despite the heat, she says, "Working at the wildscape this time of year is really pretty easy because I just hold a watering wand."



Teresa Day-Fickel hard at work



Carol Marcotte and Joe Martinez getting a friendly hug despite the heat

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

John Blair, 7/26/2018: I learned this week that my neighborhood hardware store (the one just west of Fielder on Park Row) has a bin for depositing worn-out American flags that need proper disposal. I must have a half-dozen I will be taking over there. Previously I would have had to take them 10 miles away, by appointment.

Netargv.com, 7/26/2018: Texas May Forfeit Bentsen State Park to Feds for Border Wall, by Jonathan Salinas. The President of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Carter Smith, has reportedly notified the Bentsen family that the state park that bears their name will revert to them when the border wall is built. This action will be triggered by the terms of the original deed of conveyance for the land from the Lloyd Bentsen family to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1944, which stipulates various use restrictions whereby any breach of "public park purposes" will cause the title to such land to revert back to the grantors. TPWD has maintained and operated Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park ever since receiving the property. The Lone Star State appears prepared to forfeit that "use and benefit" enjoyed by the public for almost 75 years, giving a green light to the federal government to bulldoze and clear the way for Trump's border wall — which now includes 25 new miles in McAllen, levee walls, bollard walls, 150-foot enforcement zones, and surveillance cameras — funded by the Consolidated Appropriations

Act of 2018. Once completed, all of Hidalgo County will be walled off from the Rio Grande except for 3.3 miles through Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge.

Arlington Neighborhood News, 7/27/2018: Arlington Water Utilities customers used an average of 75 million gallons a day in June, nearly 30 percent more water on average than in June 2017. It's a trend that's not surprising given the recent hot, dry weather. Arlington Water's customer service representatives are available to answer questions about water use and billing, and Arlington Water's website and social media pages offer tips and information all year long to help customers be water wise.



Photo by Bob Brennan

Mayors' Monarch Summit, September 20, 2018: A group of conservation-minded folks from TCC South Campus has organized a gathering of local mayors to discuss initiatives in support of monarchs in their respective cities. The distinguished panel will explore "working together in Tarrant County toward a partner conservation strategy to aid

in the recovery of the monarch butterfly."

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Noon-1:30pm - Reception immediately following Q&A

1110 Fusion Auditorium, The South Campus Center of Excellence for Energy Technology (SETC)
Tarrant County College South Campus
5301 Campus Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76119



Friends of SW Nature Preserve at last year's North Texas Giving Day

North Texas Giving Day, September 20, 2018: This year we will have an opportunity to show our continuing support for area nonprofits on Thursday, September 20, from early morning until 12 midnight. ACC members will have a tough time choosing among worthy nonprofits in various fields. But be sure to remember one local environmental group, the Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve. Regardless of selection, please give generously, secure in the knowledge that your donation will be put to good use in service of many worthy causes, including the environment.

July 4th Parade: ACC Float Wins Again

[Dark Skies](#) on a hot, bright summer day. That was our environmental take on this year's parade theme. And it must have worked: Our beautiful (and recycled/recyclable) float won first prize in the noncommercial division for the second year in a row. Our small band of parade walkers noticed that some spectators saw and appreciated the cardboard houses and beer can stars, not to mention the creativity, imagination, and talent behind the finished product. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard and walked so warm. Be sure to read the [Green Source DFW article](#) about the float.



continued on page 11

July 4th Parade continued from page 10



Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, August 21, 7:00 pm

Speaker to be announced



Photo by Bob Brennan

**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 and to sign up for email updates, see www.swnp.org or e-mail info@swnp.org.

Friends of SWNP events and programs are free and open to the public.

Coming Up

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, September 18

Scat and Tracks: What animals leave behind
Kayleigh Medeiros

September 20

North Texas Giving Day [Green Arlington Foundation](http://www.greenarlingtonfoundation.org)
benefitting Friends of SWNP

Saturday October 6

8 -10 am

Bird ID Workshop and Bird Walk
Details soon.

Saturday October 20

Southwest Nature Preserve's 5th Anniversary
Save the date!



Photo by Bob Brennan

continued on page 13

Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 12

Pollinator/Restoration Project Update

“First year it sleeps, second year it creeps, third year it leaps.” So far this adage for native plantings holds true. After seeding in late fall 2017 and winter 2018, SWNP’s 2-acre pollinator/restoration project featured blooms of black-eyed Susan, Mexican hat, and Partridge pea with the winter cover crop of winter wheat. Not bad, but they represented only a fraction of the seed sown. In April, several flats of milkweed and some native grass plants were installed, rapidly followed by early summer temperatures. Summer’s show now features native annual sunflowers (volunteer) and giant ragweed (yikes!). To prevent the ragweed from blooming and reseeding, volunteers are cutting it, and they’re almost done.



Photos by Bob Brennan

To ensure better results in year 2, re-seeding and re-planting with more native wildflowers and grasses are planned for this fall. Watering is still needed, too. Can you help? If you can, please contact us at info@swnp.org.



Despite the modest showing this first year, pollinators are visiting the project, including bumblebees, native bees, and even Monarchs. They know it’s there, and the best is yet “to bee.”



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

Name _____	First-year member \$10.00	
Address _____	Individual \$15.00	New Member ☐
_____	Family \$25.00	
Phone _____	Supporting \$40.00	Renewing member ☐
E-mail _____	Sponsor \$100.00	
Lifetime Individual \$250.00		
Other \$ _____		

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.

President Dick Schoech
Vice President/Secretary Jan Miller
Treasurer Marian Hiler

Program Coordinator Grace Darling
Webmaster Frank Keeney

Editor John Darling
Board Member Danny Kocurek

**SPECIAL
MEETING
LOCATION**

POST OAK
 Arlington Conservation Council
 PO Box 216
 Arlington, TX 76004-0216

**SPECIAL
MEETING
LOCATION**



August Meeting
Wednesday, August 1, 7 pm



River Legacy Living Science Center
703 NW Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington, TX 76006

**Tour of the Renovations and New Exhibits
at the River Legacy Living Science Center**

Becky Nussbaum