

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 8

SEPTEMBER 2018

Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve • Photo by Wesley Miller

**SPECIAL
MEETING
LOCATION**

September Meeting Tour of Arlington's New Downtown Library

Erin Halovanic, Library Services Manager

Wednesday, September 5, 7 pm

George W. Hawkes Downtown Library, 100 S. Center St., Arlington, TX 76010

See page 7 for more information

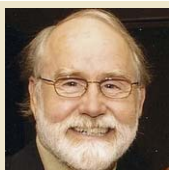
**SPECIAL
MEETING
LOCATION**

At our September meeting we will tour Arlington's latest LEED-certified sustainable building, our new downtown library. The tour will include an overview of the plaza, which has 50 trees, over 1500 native plants, and a rainwater riverbed feature. Inside, there is a sustainability shop that sells used books, eco friendly office supplies, tote bags, and refillable water bottles, and a seed library started with more than 1000 packets of seeds that can be checked out. The third floor hosts a butterfly garden and a Sun Club Garden with rainwater-fed native plants. The roof boasts a solar array that generates enough electricity to run 56 3-bedroom homes.



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**From the President
Dick Schoech**

Are national divisive politics creeping into Arlington?

As I write this message, the Arlington City Council is having a Sunday evening session to address the wording of a recall petition for the November 6 ballot. Yes, a SUNDAY session, and a Monday evening session is planned to consider the same issue. Are national divisive politics creeping into Arlington? Much is written on how we got to this point, e.g., dissatisfaction with adding more urban gas wells, blunt and occasionally disrespectful treatment of citizens testifying before the council, not telling people at the beginning of council meetings that items they wish to testify on will not be on the evening's agenda, etc. However, we shouldn't be rehashing the cause, but should be asking how we can replace such confrontations with negotiated solutions where all parties experience a win/win situation.

The Sunday evening council meeting began with council members leaving the chamber for a closed executive session that lasted an hour and 20 minutes. When they returned to hear comments, even some opponents of term limits expressed their disgust with the process used by both sides that fostered divisive politics. In the end, the council listened to the citizens present and voted their own motion down so only the citizens' version of term limits will be on the November ballot. Gandhi is quoted as saying: *"There go my people. I must follow them, for I am their leader."* Our leaders listened and followed their citizens to exemplify Gandhi's view of leadership. The council also listened to Texas Campaign for the Environment's and ACC's efforts on apartment recycling. While they passed a drafted recycling ordinance for new apartments, they charged the city's Environmental Committee to work with citizen groups to find ways to offer recycling in older apartments. ACC was specifically mentioned as needing to be involved in developing existing-apartment recycling options.

Political commentary suggests that local communities are the place in America where people come together regardless of ideology and work for a better community. ACC is changing its IRS status from a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, which allowed substantial lobbying, to a 501(c)(3) where some lobbying is permitted but dues are tax deductible. ACC works against actions that are not sustainable and/or are harmful to the environment. My experience is that ACC has always approached issues by trying to get to a win/win solution. Arlington needs ACC members to be good listeners to make our community serve all its residents in a sustainable and environmentally conscious way. After all, ACC's mission states that "ACC works to protect Arlington's natural environment through education, community service, and advocacy for a sustainable future". I'm pleased our council has demonstrated leadership in the recent votes mentioned above to unite citizens in sustainable practices. I'm sure ACC will follow the council's lead.



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 Terse Tree Hugger



Just more
litter?

[Read this.](#)

Prize Poster

Did you know that there must be lots of people hoping to convince everyone to leave possums alone? Case in point: Just try to find the source of this poster sent in by our ACC president. You'll see a wonderful array of possum-positive graphics and even pretty cute photos, all aimed at helping us live in peace with our only marsupial neighbor.



**Just one of me eats
up to 5,000 ticks a
year, yet I don't contract
or carry Lyme disease!**

**95% of my kind are
naturally immune
to rabies!**

**I also eat insects,
snails, small
rodents, and dead
stuff! I'm nature's
pest control &
cleanup crew.**



**If you see me,
kindly ignore me.
I mean you no harm.**

**I may be ugly,
but I'm more
scared than scary**

**I'm North America's only Marsupial!
HELLO, MY NAME IS POSSUM!**

Visit us on the Web
www.acctexas.org

JEWELS OF OPAR

John Blair

When first I found
This misty flare
Of minute pink flowers
And red fruit
I thought to say
"This can't be real",

This vegetative miracle
Springing up unbidden
In the garden's wildest spot,
Half-hidden, protected,
Beside cracked bricks
From Mexico,
Rare beauty in the mud
Of my back yard.

But isn't that the way
With beauty?
More beautiful
If unexpected,
But always there.

©2018 John I. Blair,
8/22/2018

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

Question Corner John Darling

Why don't you have more photos of cochineal bugs? — Perplexed in Pantego
Dear Perplexed, A thoughtless oversight. The Editorial Board has demanded that I correct it at once.



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

Remodeling

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 Brian Schwettmann Cell 817-475-9201
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Shop 3646 Garner
 Pantego, TX 76013
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Thanks A.C.C. for working to
 conserve Arlington's
 natural resources.

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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller



NPAT (Native Prairies Association of Texas) says “September is time for prairies.” and their latest newsletter features a variety of activities, including a fire ecology field trip to Ray Roberts Lake State Park. [Read more here.](#) And [here.](#)



More Bits

September meeting parking notes

We will gather just inside the library's main (south) entrance to tour this LEED-certified building. There is street parking on Center just north of Abram. Note that Center is one way southbound, so if you are coming from the south, you must get yourself north of the library (via Mesquite, West, or Cooper for example), then approach it on Center from the north.

The street parking could be challenging if Center Street traffic is heavy: It is back-in diagonal. You might prefer the parking garage across Center from the library that you can also enter from Mesquite.



Giant coneflowers at UTA rainwater detention area

Thanks to Our Last Speaker

What a fantastic Arlington Conservation Council meeting last month at River Legacy Living Science Center. Becky Nussbaum is a great tour guide! She has passion and enthusiasm. One notable remark from Becky: The children know about the bottom of oceans, but they don't know what is in their own backyards. This is THE place in Arlington to learn and teach generations to appreciate nature in their own backyards. Thanks to Becky and to all the wonderful River Legacy staff. — *Adapted from notes by Carol Shinsky Marcotte*



Above, River Legacy's Becky Nussbaum with ACC President Dick Schoech



Recycling in Arlington Jim Domke

For some it has been a success, but for the Texas Campaign for the Environment and local recycling volunteers it was only a small step in the right direction, when the Arlington City Council on August 1 voted to require all future apartment complexes to provide recycling services.

For the 45,000 existing apartments in the city the council motioned for the Citizens Environmental Committee to review the problem and evaluate future actions.

Meeting on August 15th the committee heard how apartment trash collection was not handled by the city, but left for every complex to manage the units waste however they wished. Other problems besides cost were simply finding space and accessibility for recycling containers.

City officials told the committee how the city was working to help apartment dwellers by stationing recycling drop-off bins at seven of Arlington's public libraries, see photo. <http://www.arlington-tx.gov/recycle/recycling-information-drop-off-locations/>

The city is encouraging all residents to drive to Fort Worth and dispose



of any hazardous matter at the Environmental Collection Center near I-30 and Loop-820. And not leave them at the curb for the landfill.

On Thursday, August 23, Kroger announced plans to eliminate plastic shopping bags by 2025. Jessica Adelman, Kroger's group vice-president for corporate affairs, says, "this is the way things are headed and we want to be in front of that." Whole Foods and IKEA already ban plastic shopping bags.

Kroger distributes six billion single-use bags a year, according to Adelman. The Environmental Protection Agency says that of more than four million tons of plastic bags, sacks and wraps a year, less than 13% of it gets recycled. Plastic containers and packaging accounts for nearly 6% of municipal waste. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/kroger-to-ditch-plastic-bags-by-2025-15350200?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=1>

The Environmental Hall of Shame, Arlington Edition

Dick Schoech has kindly supplied our inaugural entry and appropriate comments: *Left*, Chemical fertilizers make green lawns and greener streams — use with caution or not at all. *Right*, It's their home, too.



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason



The First Saturday Mini Class

Marylee Thomason presented the August first Saturday Mini Class on “Sequestering Carbon in the Soil.” A timeline of Earth average temperature illustrated the dramatic increase since the Industrial Revolution. After a brief description of how carbon contributes to the warming, discussion turned to alternative farming methods for capturing and retaining carbon in the soil instead of releasing it back into the atmosphere.

Jane Oosterhuis found a *Star-Telegram* article that questioned leaving dead plants on the ground because bacteria naturally release carbon into the atmosphere as they break down the plant material. This is an argument presented by people who do not want to change their farming habits.

A portion of the carbon is indeed released to the atmosphere, but a larger quantity is consumed by macro decomposers that carry it into the soil. There it is available to new plants and eventually becomes humus, which can sequester carbon for hundreds of years. Nature has used this practice forever. Only with the advent of modern (unnatural) farming has its benefit been questioned.

Thank you, first Saturday volunteers, for coming out to keep the wildscape



Volunteer Otto Witt, Master Gardener from North Richland Hills

beautiful. The latest new volunteers include Otto Witt, a Master Gardener from North Richland Hills who was curious about the wildscape and needed a speaker for his garden club, “formerly the Men’s Garden Club before they broke down and allowed a few women in.” He is actively involved in several other gardens around town, vegetable and otherwise.

And meet another new volunteer, entrepreneur/award-winning photographer Jim Domke. Inspired by REI’s pivot to parks campaign, he plans to forego shopping on Black Friday in favor of a parks crawl through four local parks, including the wildscape. He thinks empty nesters might be surprised at what they discover and pleased enough to volunteer. Jim’s a character, and he’s on our side. Contact him at jim.domke@gmail.com.

Special welcome to Boy Scout Bennie Granada, troop leader for Troop 396 in Arlington. An enthusiastic worker, he was at the wildscape recently doing service hours. “See ya’ next Saturday,” he called as he left to catch his ride home.

Summer Watering

The naturalist’s main job in the hot Texas summers is watering. This year, wildscape leader and native plant gardener Ann Knudsen took pity on the volunteers and bought several Water Right™ hoses. The polyurethane hoses received our stamp of approval because they are durable, lightweight, and come in bright colors.

In an effort to make irrigating more efficient, Jim Landers offered to help Ann map out a drip system that could run even when volunteers are not working a particular section.

If you don’t have a team of dedicated volunteers to water your yard, Ann says you can determine when it’s time to water by checking your plants in the morning. If they are looking



An old mass of wildscape coralberry has passed the time when summer watering is crucial. It manages on rainfall alone.

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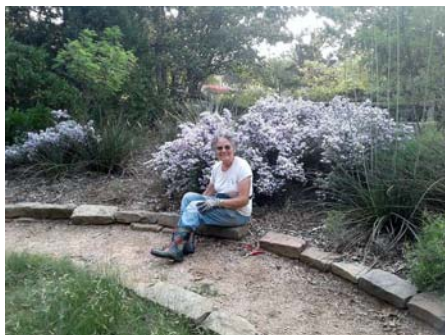
Wildscape Update continued from page 9



In this August photo an established patch of wildscape Turk's cap looks healthy despite receiving only rainwater.

wilted, then turn on the soakers. Then use the screwdriver test to know if you have watered enough. Try to push a long screwdriver into the ground. If it goes in easily at least 6 to 8 inches, you have watered enough.

If you like to DIY, can make your own soaker hose by drilling tiny holes or inserting push pins into an old hose every 2-4 inches on one side. Make a sleeve out of old fabric and cover your newly made soaker to keep the holes from getting clogged. Cap one end and wind your soaker through your garden just inside the leaf line of your plants. Cover it to a depth of about 4 inches with compost and soak. The screwdriver will be a reliable gauge



Josephine Keeney enjoying the Texas sage

for determining how long to run the water.

Frequent light watering doesn't get the water to the roots. Think of yourself. If you're thirsty, you don't take a shower, you get a big drink of water. That's what your plants need. Break out the iced tea with a little lemon and honey. They like that, too.

Board Meeting

Great things are coming out of the monthly board meetings. This month signs were a hot topic. The group decided to put up signs in the woodland area to inform the public that running up and down the slopes damages plants and causes erosion.

Josephine Keeney announced that 20-30 new, larger butterfly plant signs using wire plant holders are being put together for the fall plant sale. Josephine will ask Julie Thibodeaux, editor of Green Source DFW, to write an article about the sale.

The sign committee, along with Carol Shinsky Marcotte, overseer of prairie maintenance, have concluded that we need a sign for the pocket prairie. It is an important part of the wildscape and needs to be identified.

Online and print media emissary Teresa Day-Fickel will see that our volunteer information on "Next Door," the neighborhood social media site, is posted each week for the appropriate zip codes. Ann Knudsen will add Teresa as administrator to the

Facebook site.

The first annual Friends of the Wildscape luncheon will be at the Bob Duncan Center. Tentatively set for Saturday, January 19, 2019. The venue will hold up to fifty people seated at tables. Get your tickets early!

Many thanks to the dedicated board members who meet the third Wednesday of every month after the workday to discuss the wildscape's needs. Guests are welcome.

Working in the wildscape is fun. Ann Knudsen is even looking into a shade awning to protect us from the worst of global warming. Of course, no one can shield you from friendly teasing, anecdotes of the day and the temptations of the sweets sometimes offered at break time. Try it — you might like it.



Rosalie Rogers hard at work

Wildscape Fall Native Plant Sale

When: **Saturday, September 22, 2018**

Where: **Randol Mill Park Greenhouse
1901 W Randol Mill Road
Arlington, TX**

Map: **See back side.**

Time: **9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Visit: **Website for more details, pictures
and prices.**

www.thewildscape.org

Plant Sale features

The sale features a large variety of plant species grown organically at the Greenhouse by Wildscape volunteers, including: Ground Covers Perennials, Shrubs, Vines and Trees.

- Grown **organically** from local stock
- Better adapted to our climate
- Low requirement for water
- No need for pesticides or fertilizers



Wild Petunia



Flame Acanthus

List of Plants for the 2018 Fall Sale

PERENNIALS:

Blackeyed Susan
Brazos penstemon
Cedar sage
Columbine-yellow
Drummond's aster
Drummond's petunia
Fall aster
Fall obedient plant
False nettle
Frostweed
Giant Spiderwort
Goldenrod
Gregg's mistflower
Heath aster
Ironweed-western
Maximilian sunflower
Mealy blue sage
Mexican milkweed
Pigeonberry
Purple coneflower
Rock penstemon
Scarlet sage
Swamp milkweed
Zexmenia

FERNS:

Wood Fern

SHRUBS:

Autumn sage - Red
Beautyberry
Buttonbush
Chile pequin
Coralberry
Elderberry
Yellow Bells
False indigo
Flame acanthus
Illinois bundleflower
Kidneywood
Rock rose
Roughleaf dogwood
Rusty blackhaw
Texas lantana
Texas sage -
Lynne Lowrey's
Turk's cap
Velvetleaf senna
Virginia sweetspire
White honeysuckle
White mistflower
Yaupon holly

AQUATIC:

Lizard's Tail

GROUNDCOVERS:

Frogfruit
Hairy tube-tongue
Horseherb
Low wild petunia
Lyreleaf sage - Green
Powderpuff
Prairie phlox
Snake herb
White avens
White yarrow
Wild -Wood violet
Wild petunia
Winecup

VINES:

Balsam gourd
Coral honeysuckle
Crossvine
Honeyvine
Milkweed vine
Passionflower
Maypop
Passionflower
Scarlet fruit
Pipevine

TREES:

American elm
Black willow
Box elder
Burr oak
Carolina Cherry Laurel
Cedar elm
Chinquapin oak
Eastern red cedar
Eastern redbud
Eve's necklace
Mexican buckeye
Mexican plum
Red buckeye
Red oak
Toothache tree

GRASSES:

Cedar sedge
Cherokee sedge
Gulf muhly
Inland seaots
Lindheimer's muhly
Mexican feathergrass
Texas bluegrass

CACTI & SUCCULENT:

Century Plant
Coastal Sedum
Red Yucca
Spanish Bayonet
Prickly Pear - Spineless

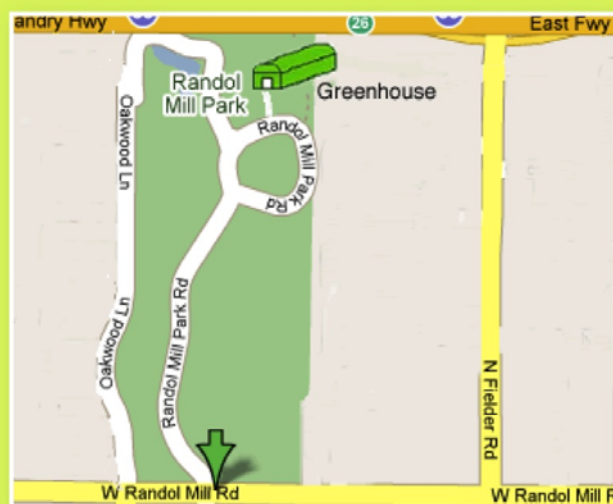
www.thewildscape.org

The Greenhouse at Randol Mill Park

1901 W Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX 76012

Directions: Exit Interstate 30 South on Fielder Road. Drive two blocks West from Fielder Road on Randol Mill Road, then turn North into the park. The Plant Sale is held at the Randol Mill Park Greenhouse in the rear the park behind the swimming pool.

Proceeds from the plant sale are used to maintain the **Molly Hollar Wildscape** at Veterans Park in Arlington.



Dark Skies: Yes, No, Maybe? John Darling

Hard to believe but I've heard a few tree huggers express little interest in the [Dark Sky](#) movement because they haven't thought about the consequences of bad outdoor lighting. In one sense, it's simple: Almost everybody wants to see stars. But for environmentalists, there's a lot more. Bad lighting usually wastes a lot of energy, so power plants must pollute more to provide that energy. And many kinds of animals (plants too) are adversely affected by light pollution.

So we have to care when we're thumbing through a magazine filled with ads for Texas park professionals and we see a page aimed at selling the worst sort of unshielded light to an audience that must include our own Arlington Parks & Rec professionals.



Do our parks people buy this kind of light? I'm not sure, but I fear that our department has no Dark Sky policy. The city doesn't seem to, despite the fact that our mayor once worked on projects in a nearby city that requires proper nighttime lighting. I suppose that relevant city staff, including parks people, know about Dark Sky, but for some reason things go on as they always have. Is this another seemingly hopeless cause ACC ought to take on?

On a much happier note, visit [this page](#) at the International Dark-Sky Association site to read "Texas Collaboration Protects Dark Skies." If you haven't already heard, you will learn about the dramatic increase in light pollution affecting

McDonald Observatory in far West Texas related to the growth in oil and gas extraction. And you'll be encouraged by the success — small but growing — of efforts to darken the skies while saving money.



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



C40 News from the Global Climate Change Summit: This week, 19 pioneering mayors committed to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions from their cities by ensuring that new buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2030. By signing the [Net Zero Carbon Buildings Declaration](#), the leaders of Copenhagen, Johannesburg, London, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York City, Newburyport, Paris, Portland, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Monica, Stockholm, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Tshwane, Vancouver & Washington D.C. also pledged to ensure all buildings in the cities, old or new, will meet net-zero carbon standards by 2050.

EPA News Release: August 24, 2018 - Under a settlement announced today by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), CertainTeed Corporation will pay \$365,500 in civil penalties to resolve alleged violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) at the CertainTeed Lake Charles Polymer Plant in Westlake, Louisiana. Violations included, among other

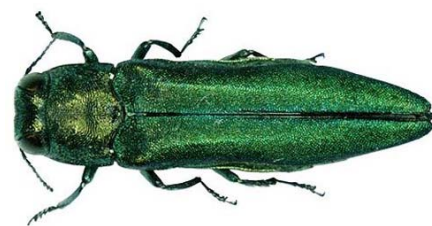
things, failure to provide approved and permitted drinking water at its facility for its employees and failure to monitor and test for contaminants that can result in adverse health effects. Despite numerous enforcement efforts by both EPA and the state of Louisiana, CertainTeed took over four years to address the sig-



nificant deficiencies. [Jail time for its owners might have been more effective, IMO]

Water: Awesome but Often Wasted: Arlington City Manager Trey Yelverton recently talked with our city council about the higher-than-usual water use happening across Arlington this summer, which you can see in [an educational video presentation here](#) and here's a link to a new video that shows you [how you can read your water meter](#).

Arlington Water's customer service representatives at 817-275-5931 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. The city is also offering free sprinkler evaluations to customers.



From the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council: Emerald Ash Borer Update

For the first time, [Emerald Ash Borer](#) has been spotted in North Texas. This is still unconfirmed because no specimen has been found, but it appears EAB may be a threat sooner than expected. Chemical pesticide injection is the only successful treatment for EAB, although you can start inspecting ash trees for borer damage and monitoring the status of ash trees. Decline typically occurs over a period of 2-3 years, so photograph trees to make baseline comparisons. Look for any dieback, epicormic branching, bark damage, or other changes to the health of the tree and homeowners should consult an arborist if they see any decline. Unfortunately, most homeowners react too late and once severe symptoms appear the chance of survival decreases dramatically.



continued on page 15

In Case You Missed It continued from page 14

From Texas Environmental News: Plastic pollution: One day, three solutions — all of which may have far-reaching effects on plastic pollution in the United States. In California, the “straw bill” passed the state assembly and awaits Gov. Jerry Brown's signature. Once signed, California will be the first state to require dine-in and full-service restaurants to give customers single-use plastic straws only upon request. Every day in the United States, people throw away about **175 million plastic straws**, and many of those straws end up in or near the ocean.

U.S. CONSUMPTION = ENOUGH STRAWS TO WRAP AROUND THE EARTH'S CIRCUMFERENCE 2.5 TIMES A DAY!



In New Jersey, Gov. Phil Murphy also made a statement against single-use plastics. He vetoed a bill (A 3267) fast-tracked by retailers that would have placed a statewide 5-cent fee on single-use plastic bags, while simultaneously preventing local action. Instead, New Jersey's cities and towns will have the freedom to pursue bans and heftier fees on plastic bags, while the state reconsiders what a statewide ban might look like in the future. Single-use plastic bags are one of the most common single-use plastics found in the environment. Every day, Americans throw away an estimated 300 million, and less than 5% of those bags are recycled.

Not to be outdone by the east or west coast, corporate America



responded from the heartland. Cincinnati-based Kroger Co., America's largest grocery-only chain, announced its plan to phase out single-use plastic bags and transition to reusable bags by 2025 in all its stores, starting with Seattle-based subsidiary QFC in 2019. In 2016, Kroger announced a plan to meet or exceed the EPA's “zero waste” threshold of 90% diversion from landfills in its manufacturing and store facilities by 2020. Kroger reports an improved 78% diversion rate in 2016, up from 70% in 2015. Last year's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste initiative aims at ending hunger in communities where Kroger does business while eliminating food waste across the company by 2025. The effort includes establishing a \$10 million innovation fund; accelerating food donations; improving the quality of donated meals; and advocating for public policy solutions to address hunger. Across the U.S. around 42 million Americans struggle with hunger. At the same time, an estimated 72 billion pounds of food end up in landfills. Around 40% of the food produced in the U.S. goes unconsumed.

Tracking Arlington's Growth:

From its humble start as a small settlement of a few hundred souls in 1873, our city's population curve reflects the war years' boom, the civil rights angst of the 60s and 70s, the oil- and business-fueled prosperity of the 80s and 90s, to today's status as the entertainment capital of Texas. It may be argued that this low-density, suburban growth pattern has decimated our natural resources and stressed the environment, but I believe it's not too late to start paying attention. Surely 400,000 in 99 square miles is large enough?

Year	Population
1900	1,079
1910	1,794
1920	3,031
1930	3,661
1940	4,240
1950	7,692
1960	44,775
1970	90,643
1980	160,113
1990	261,721
2000	332,969



Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 pm

Scat and Tracks: What Animals Leave Behind

Kayleigh Medeiros

**Audubon Conservation Treks Manager for the State
and Academic Programs Manager for Trinity River Audubon Center**

Kayleigh will discuss animal evidence, specifically scat and tracks. We will learn how to safely examine scat and how to identify it. We will then discuss the tracks of an animal and 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
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

September 20

North Texas Giving Day

Please support our restoration, trails and outreach efforts with your donation to Green Arlington Foundation benefiting Friends of SWNP. <https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/green-arlington-foundation>

Saturday October 6

8 -10 am

Bird ID Workshop and Bird Walk

Register to reserve a seat at the workshop (8 am) or join the group at SWNP (8:30am) for a bird ID walk. Due to limited seating, workshop registration is required; contact Jim Frisinger at 682/352-6469 or jimfrisinger1@yahoo.com

Saturday October 20

Southwest Nature Preserve's 5th Anniversary

Save the date!

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Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 16

Pollinator/Restoration Project Update

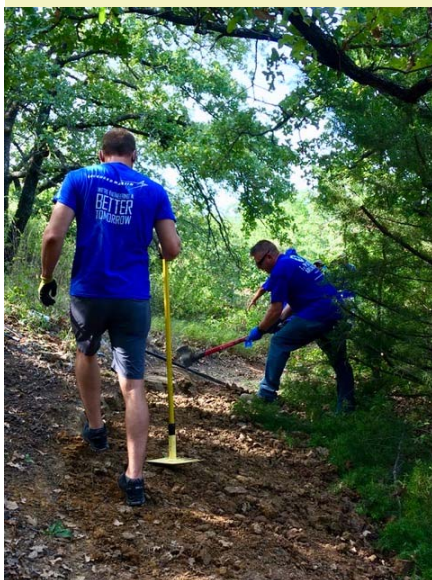
Seeds are on order. Plants purchased from John Snowden's Bluestem Nursery now fill a bench at APRD's Randol Mill Greenhouse. More plants, a pickup-full donated by John Snowden, are being cared for by Jim Fuquay after John's nursery closed last month. (Thank you, John!) All of these are targeted for planting in October. If you can help, please contact info@swnp.org.



Jim Fuquay, left, and John Snowden load plants bound for the restoration area in October

Trails Update

After collaborating with trail users and APRD, a trail along the west boundary of SWNP was recently added. Thanks to volunteer Rudy Arnold, who worked many hard hours on his own and organized a volunteer event on August 18 with The Mission Continues and APRD. Slopes were smoothed, grades corrected and treads cleared and firmed. It's looking great! We're grateful for Rudy's experience and dedication as he continues to improve trails; if you'd like to join him, please contact info@swnp.org.



Viridian Wants River Legacy Parks Land

Recently, officials of the Viridian development requested two acres of River Legacy Parks land along Hwy 157, apparently to enlarge their landscaping along the highway.

We don't yet know all the details, but ACC's Wayne Halliburton and Dick Schoech have been considering this and they, like many of us, are concerned that it looks like just more deforestation of the area. Some of their edited thoughts are below:

Certainly the cutting of mature trees is a disaster. Given that nothing can replace any lost post oaks, one question is, what will Viridian plant in any lost wooded area?

Viridian originally presented itself to ACC as a wonderfully green development, but that's increasingly difficult to accept. Viridian's initial proposals sounded like a win/win proposition, with River Legacy Parks gaining miles of shared bike and walking paths. However, as it develops, it looks more like most of the wins are going to Viridian customers, not to all the other residents who use River Legacy.

This from Wayne:

Here are pictures I took in early 2017 when Viridian was clear cutting to make room for deeper lakes and a drainage ditch above the last lake, about MP 6.75 on the River Legacy trail. Riding on the trail now feels more and more like the River Legacy trail east of Collins. It has become a trail flanked by a strip of woods, not surrounded by woods, as it was before development started. It also makes you wonder what will become of the wildlife, as we further reduce their habitat.



Join ACC any time. Now would be good.

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**SPECIAL
MEETING
LOCATION**



**September
Meeting**

Wednesday, September 5, 7 pm

**George W. Hawkes Downtown Library
100 S. Center Street**



Tour of the New Downtown Library

Erin Halovanic