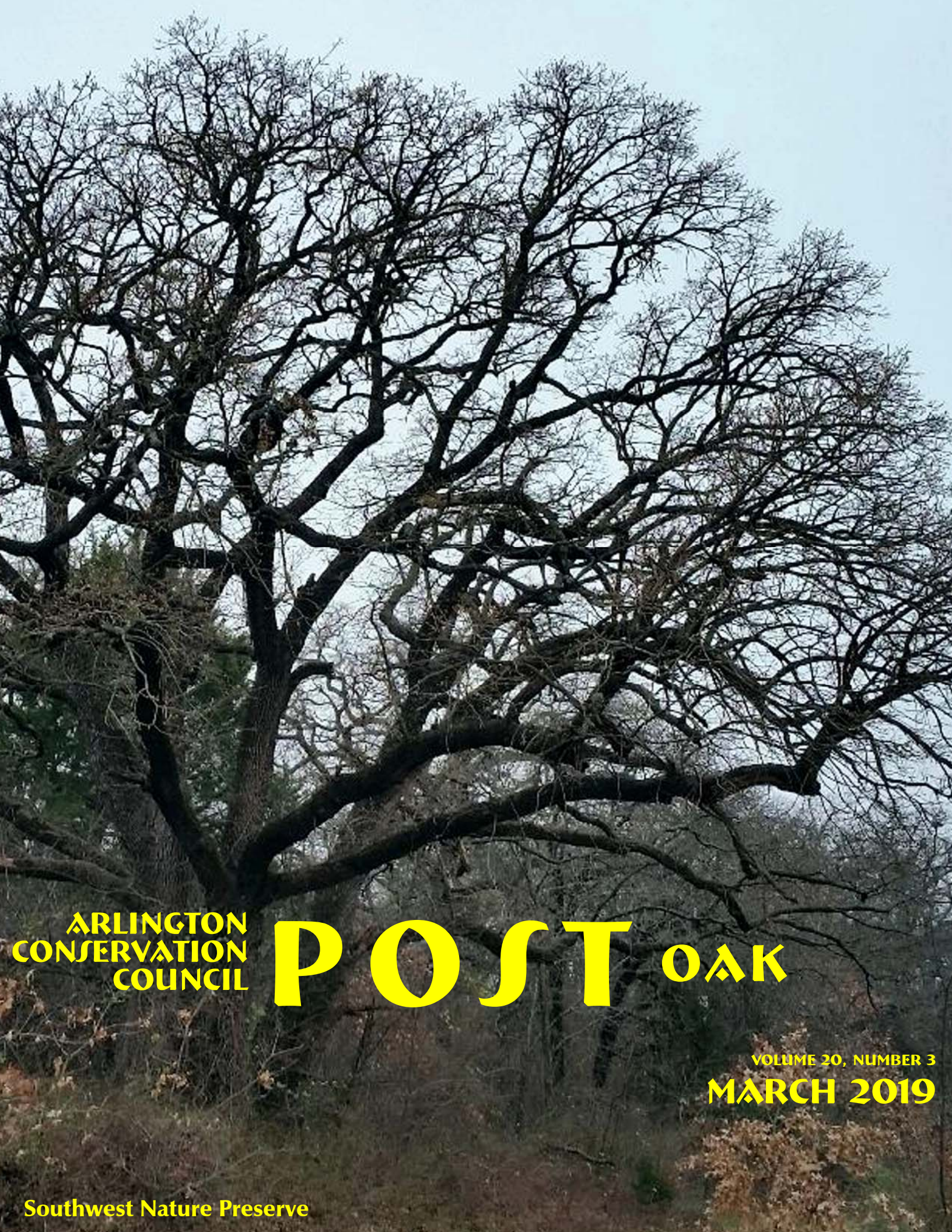




**ARLINGTON  
CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL**

# **POST OAK**

**VOLUME 20, NUMBER 3**

**MARCH 2019**

**Southwest Nature Preserve**



**Back to  
Fielder**

## **March Meeting**

### **Citizens Climate Lobby Update**

**Paula Luna,  
Co-leader of the Arlington Chapter, Citizens Climate Lobby**

**Wednesday, March 6, 7 pm  
Fielder Museum**

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

**Back to  
Fielder****Citizens' Climate Lobby**

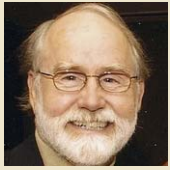
Paula Luna brings us up to date on the Lobby's local and nationwide activities. Paula learned about climate change from a job in the early 1990s when she tracked emissions from railcar manufacturing plants. Since the major drought of 2011, she has been alarmed at the effects and expected results from climate change, and the lack of action from the government. She joined Citizens Climate Lobby in



2015 to join a chorus of voices, also alarmed, and has volunteered with them ever since, trying to bring attention to the topic and find support for their bill.

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## From the President

Dick Schoech

### Get involved and **VOTE**

Passage of the term limits proposition last November has resulted in opportunities to elect several new faces to the city council. Three incumbents are barred from running again in the May 4, 2019, election, and two more incumbents will be term limited in the following election. This gives citizens a unique opportunity to make Arlington more sustainable and friendlier to the environment.

To accomplish this goal, ACC members need to not only vote but to get involved in the election early since candidates are most receptive to give their position on your concerns before the election. You can read up on the candidates' positions by comparing their written statements on sites like VOTE411.org, which is managed by the League of Women Voters. You can attend candidates' meetings and get them to give their opinions publicly on environmental and sustainable issues that concern you. Write down or video their answers so you can remind them of their campaign promises if they are elected. Talk to like-minded friends to see if they are registered to vote and would be willing to support candidates concerned about the environment and sustainability. If you have time, contact the office of candidates you support. Their offices will offer you many ways to help.

Running in elections takes money, so if you have a strong position on issues, let your candidates know by making a contribution to the campaign of the candidate who best represents your positions. Those who do not hold your position, especially those making money from degrading the environment, are definitely contributing to their candidates.

Below are some of the issues and questions you can raise with those who will be on your ballot in May. They were taken from our list of speakers over the last several years.

Will you work to

- improve the condition of Arlington's parks by increasing the resources devoted to them?
- increase Arlington's efforts to clean up the trash along our roads and in our creeks?

*continued on page 6*



## 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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Please send them to  
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## Bits & Pieces

### The Terse Tree Hugger



Landscape, no.  
Rocks, yes.  
Nectar, no.  
Pollen, no.  
Oxygen, no.  
Good choice?  
See [this](#).

### Just Another Bare Post Oak

But a small reminder of how fortunate we are to live among trees that truly understand the meaning of gnarled.



### Water, Water, Everywhere

Have you seen the big blue pump in River Legacy Park just west of Hwy 157? As of a while ago, the pump was set up to suck water from the flooded woods next to Viridian's huge berm (dam?) and send it through a very long tube to the Trinity River. Apparently necessary, but it does clash with the natural beauty of the place. Questions: How much of the flooding is directly related to Mount Viridian? Will it kill the trees there? How long and how often will we have to pump? And, how could this ugly thing have happened to our park centerpiece?



Visit us on the Web  
[www.acctexas.org](http://www.acctexas.org)

### ***FIREFLIES***

John Blair

Late at night beside the lake,  
The woods a womb of darkness,  
Owl hoots for sound, for texture  
Just the hardness of the trail . . .

Then intermittent stars,  
First one or two,  
Then scores of brilliant lights  
Flash among the leaves.

Their cool burn  
Betrays the source:  
Firefly couples courting,  
Doomed to shining sex,

Self-advertising fools for love  
With illuminated tails  
Circling in a stellar ballroom,  
Enchanted till the dawn

Turns this dancing school  
To softly glowing snacks  
For toad or bird or mouse  
Or supple snake.

©2005 John I. Blair

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



## Question Corner John Darling

**Q:** The label on my new recycling cart says plastic bags are OK. Is that true?

**A:** At last, an easy question. No, the label is wrong, and recycling professionals are working now to change it region-wide. We must not put plastic bags in the cart, but we can bag them — after removing contaminants like receipts or maybe bread crumbs — and take them to any of the numerous stores set up for bags. Find lots of information and your closest place with the store locators [here](#) or [here](#). And remember: Don't recycle shredded paper, hoses, ceramic plates, or anything wet. The list on the Arlington recycling site is out of date. All true. Dr Q. Corner has inside info on this one.



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

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## From the President continued from page 3

- help Arlington develop a plan to combat climate change?
- increase Arlington's tree canopy to help reduce pollution and sequester carbon?
- support limiting fracking in residential neighborhoods?
- develop a viable public transportation system for **all** residents rather than just for those living in the entertainment district and central city?
- help Arlington strengthen its environmental committee to become a department capable of producing and implementing a strong environmental and sustainability action plan similar to the efforts of other Texas cities such as Dallas and Austin?
- bring back an Ecofest type event?

Your involvement doesn't take much time now, but can have tremendous influence when those issues come up in the future. In essence, be a good citizen by getting involved and voting.



## Sad Message Rachel Richter, Urban Wildlife Biologist, DFW, Texas Parks & Wildlife

Have you seen a sick or dead turtle?

Texas Parks and Wildlife staff have been monitoring an ongoing turtle mortality event at two adjacent locations in Fort Worth since late November. Recently, we were made aware of two other locations with sick turtles in Southeast Texas. Multiple samples have been sent to the National Wildlife Health Center and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab. Complete test results are pending.

We are concerned that there may be sick turtles elsewhere in the North Texas area that we don't know about and we'd like to request your help in monitoring local turtle populations. Please keep an eye out for dead or sick turtles. Sick turtles may exhibit the following signs:

- Extreme lethargy and reluctance to move when approached
- Swollen or sunken looking eyes that do not open
- Inability to submerge
- Nasal discharge
- Blisters on the skin



If you find dead or sick turtles, please contact Rachel Richter at [rachel.richter@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:rachel.richter@tpwd.texas.gov).

A description of what you saw, the number of turtles impacted, pictures, and the location would be useful.



## Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve

photos by Wes Miller



The Parks Department had our bit of prairie mowed last month, keeping woody invasive plants in check and revealing the beginnings of new life everywhere. It won't be long before we won't recognize the place — and it will be beautiful once again.





## More Bits

### BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS

John Blair

With a name like that  
This act has to be special,  
Has to stand out in the crowd  
Of performers by the bay,  
Has to be this  
Dolled-up dozen  
Looking like they were  
Dressed by a  
Fashion designer.

No one would ever  
Mistake them for mallards.  
No one would ever  
Pass them over  
Looking for something better to watch.

But, though the costumes are really good,  
You have to wonder if they'll ever  
Get a new routine?

©2002 John I. Blair



Southwest Nature Preserve

### Thanks to Our Last Speaker



ACC board member Grace Darling with February speaker Joao Pimentel

In February we returned to our old home at the almost completely renovated first floor of the Fielder Museum. As thanks for Fielder's years of generously hosting us, ACC has donated new, very efficient lighting for the meeting room, and it looked great. No more fluorescent tubes.

A good crowd turned out for Joao Pimentel, Senior Planner for Fort Worth's Solid Waste Services and project manager for the 2017-2037 Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan. Does that sound a little dry? Not in the hands of an expert like Joao, whose enthusiasm made the topic fascinating. And the plan contains so many desirable environmental features based on an understanding of landfill capacity and the pressing need for much more recycling in the future.

Joao's inspiring talk (yes, inspiring) left many of us wondering about Arlington's plans for dealing with future waste. The only sure thing: It doesn't just go away.



## Berry Birds text and photos by Candy Halliburton

Invasion of the cedar waxwings and robins! They showed up at our house in crowds on February 19, and in less than three hours stripped our hollies — a yaupon and some other holly — of every last berry.

It was something to see, and I've heard of similar sightings all around town. I found it interesting that these two species shared the space so nicely. It was raining and I expected to see the robins digging around for worms, but they were definitely there for the berries.

I have learned that if you are not home when they come to visit, you just miss them as we did last year. One day the berries were there and the next they were not.



## The Arlington Environmental Hall of Shame

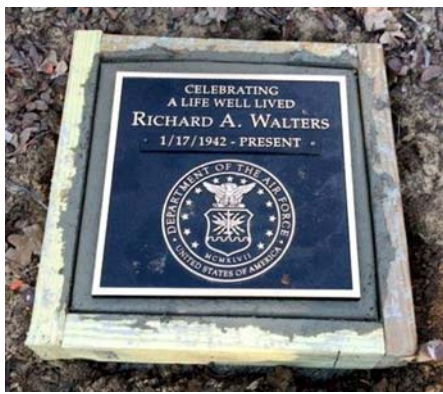
Erosion along the creek in Randol Mill Park. These trees are hanging on for their life, which will soon be over. Luckily, a group of concerned citizens is working with the city to find a solution. We welcome anyone who loves Randol Mill Park and is willing to help with the solution to send me an email — Dick Schoech.





## Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

A friend recently told me that he “would like to be a bench someday.” Being remembered in a place where those left behind can sit and visit with your memory is something the wildscape offers local residents.



Three new family members, two brothers and a son, have recently been memorialized with plaques next to a bench near the creek. The plaques are handsome with gold lettering and a seal of the branch of the military each served. Each plaque is made of durable metal with 6-inch bolts on the back. The cement casing is 10-12 inches deep, so it will not wash away in a flood. The hole is dug



and the cement poured, but the digger, Randy Moore, must wait until the surface is “fingerprint”

cured to be sure that the plaque will not sink when it is pressed into place.

The result is artistic: three dignified remembrances of lives well lived and men well loved.

Dave and Anita Ferman have donated a bench in the name of their little dog, Precious. Near the Precious bench, Carrie was busy fishing an aluminum can out of the culvert when I rounded the corner. It was part of her job to help keep the wildscape clean.

*continued on page 11*





## Wildscape Update continued from page 10

She was doing it with the sturdy stick she found a few weeks ago.

Carrie had hidden the stick after each visit and found it again on every new trip. Three times so far.

Her mother was standing by admiring, encouraging, willing to help if needed. Carrie attends the Montessori Academy east of the park. “Do you know Peggy Quinn?” she asked. Nothing like a little name-dropping to establish your credentials.



The wildscape will soon welcome other children for two more WOWs. Thornton Elementary will bring 111 third-graders Friday, March 22, and Anderson Elementary will follow the next Friday with fifth-graders. Most of these students live in apartments and do not experience nature in the wild.

These Walk on the Wildside sessions are thrilling and transformative for the students and the volunteers who make everything

happen, but this is more students at one time than we have ever hosted before. If you’re willing to be a guide or a presenter on one morning or both, please contact [Ann Knudsen](#) or [Marylee Thomason](#).

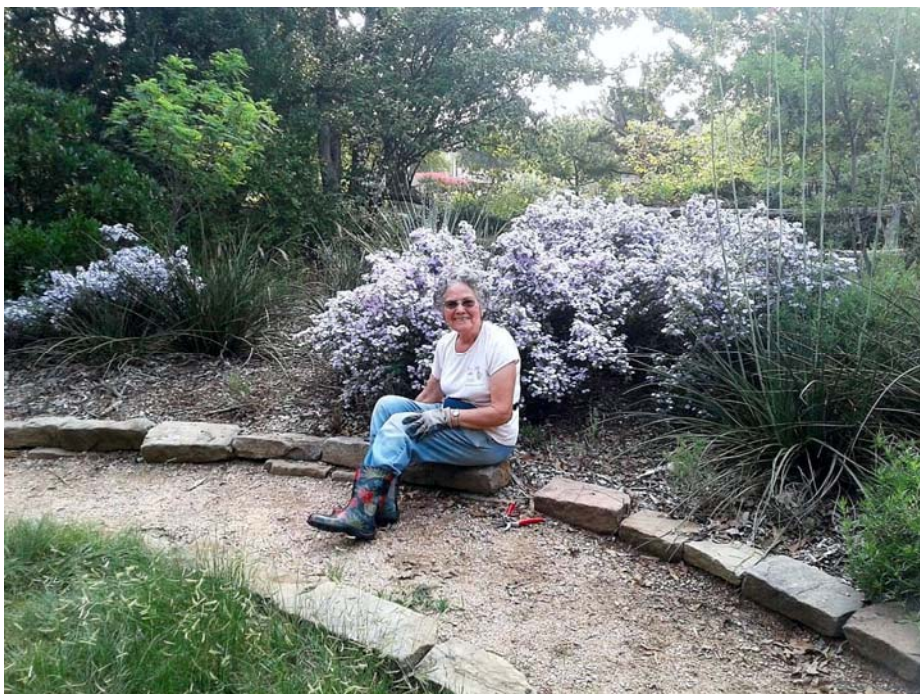


Josephine Keeney gave the latest First Saturday class on “Planting Natives to Attract Wildlife.” We met at the new breakfast and lunch restaurant, Pantego Café, on Pioneer Parkway east of Bowen Road. Joe and Norma Martinez did a reconnaissance visit and gave it two thumbs up.



The group gathered in the private room that can accommodate up to 130 people.

Josephine handed out a list of native plants that attract birds, bees, and butterflies for food or hosting offspring. She discussed trees, shrubs, vines and ground-covers. Her knowledge is extensive and her affection for the plants endearing and amusing — all at the same time!





## In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



*On Facebook 3/2/19, posted by Laura Grace.* In case you are new to the native plant community, I want to caution you against two plants that are still commonly sold in nurseries, so people assume they are okay or maybe even good to plant. If you already know this, I apologize in advance.

1) Please do not plant any of the species of nandina. Not just because they are NOT native, but because their berries are toxic to birds. Many studies have documented bird mortalities, esp. cedar waxwings deaths, from consuming nandina berries. In the Hill Country nandinas are considered invasive as well.

2) Please do not plant any form of privet, aka Ligustrum, species. They are one of the worst shrub invaders to natural areas, ultimately outcompeting native plants. Birds do eat the berries and that is one of the ways they invade areas where they are not planted. But for the sake of trying to help out native plant communities, please do not plant any species of Ligustrum, no matter what the nursery salesperson tells

you about how fragrant they are or that they are evergreen. They are documented as invasive.



*From The Guardian 3/1/19, by Sam Wolfson.* America's heavy use of toilet paper, particularly the pillowy soft kind, is worsening climate change and taking "a dramatic and irreversible toll" on forests, especially the Canadian boreal forest, according to a new report by two major environmental groups. The boreal forest covers almost 60% of [Canada](#) and is home to 600 indigenous communities. Its huge size means it can absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the equivalent to the annual emissions of 24 million cars each year. But about 28 million acres of Canadian boreal forest are cut down each year, an area the size of Pennsylvania, and almost a fourth of that is for the export of virgin pulp, the key ingredient in toilet paper.

Americans are particularly to blame for this crisis. [While we] make up just over 4% of the world's population, [we] account for more than 20% of global tissue consumption. The average 4-person household in the U.S. uses over 100 lb of toilet paper a year.

And major toilet paper brands have refused to use more sustainable materials because Americans tend to be more concerned than the rest of the world about ideal toilet paper texture — its softness.

It's mostly the big brands of quilted paper that score badly on the report, with Charmin Ultra Soft, Kirkland Signature, and Angel Soft all receiving F grades because they contain little or no recycled material. Recycled materials are more commonly used in away-from-home tissue brands, like those found at offices or airports, where marketing for softness is less crucial.



Are there any options out there to prevent this destruction? Well, in ancient Rome they used a sponge on a stick, which they would then leave in a pot of vinegar to be used again. The Talmud, the central text of Jewish law, prescribes a handful of gravel, with stones to be "the size of an olive, a nut and an egg" for greatest effectiveness. So next time you're greeted at the departure gate by toilet paper with a texture similar to a handful of gravel, you can take solace in the fact you're saving the forests.

*continued on page 13*



## In Case You Missed It continued from page 12



On *Medium.com* 2/27/19, by *Tiffany Finck-Haynes*. Ace Hardware has [confirmed](#) it is eliminating bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides from the products that it sells. For the first time, all major garden retailers are on record committing to eliminate the use of neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides on the products and garden plants that they sell.



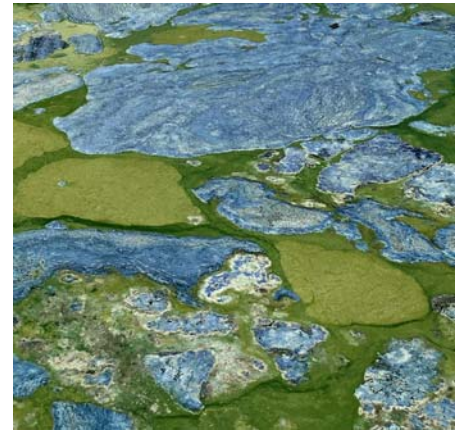
Recently, a comprehensive global [meta-analysis](#) of insect decline concluded that 40% of invertebrate pollinator species could go extinct within a century, largely due to widespread use of neonicotinoids and other toxic insecticides used in industrial agriculture, threatening a “catastrophic collapse of nature’s ecosystems.”

Given this dire situation, Ace Hardware’s commitment comes at just the right time. Ace Hardware is the country’s largest retail cooperative with over 5,000 stores around the world. It joins over 140 garden retailers includ-

ing Home Depot, Lowes, True Value, Walmart, Costco, Kroger, and Whole Foods in taking steps to protect bees and other pollinators by making commitments to eliminate neonicotinoids on plants and/or products. [All we need now is] significant action by supermarkets and our governments to significantly eliminate the use of pesticides toxic to people and pollinators.

*From Miami New Times on 3/1/2019, by Jessica Lipscomb.* Glyphosate is a popular ingredient in weed-killing herbicides because it's extremely effective. But it's also a well-known pollutant — researchers have found the chemical in samples of [the air we breathe](#), [the food we eat](#), and even [the beer and wine we buy](#).

Now, the ingredient has been banned in Miami. On Thursday, city commissioners approved a resolution prohibiting the city and its contractors from using herbicides containing glyphosate, including Roundup. The ban went into effect immediately. Commissioner Ken Russell, who sponsored the resolution, says he started looking into the city's use of herbicides and pesticides after Miami was swept by blue-green algae blooms, red tide, and fecal contamination. One of his main concerns was the city's stormwater outfalls, which pump dirty,



unfiltered water from the streets into Biscayne Bay. Documents showed the city's public works department had been using 4,800 gallons of glyphosate products per year to kill weeds on the streets and sidewalks of Miami.

Miami's ban follows other Florida cities, including Miami Beach and Stuart, that have already stopped the use of glyphosate products. Across the world, many cities [and even entire countries](#) have pushed to reduce or ban the ingredient due to concerns about cancer.

[Ed. Note: As enlightened as this sounds, to be truly effective a municipal ban must be accompanied by a ban on the use of Roundup by individuals on private property — our neighbors. Together with agricultural and diffuse industrial and rural discharges, urban stormwater runoff accounts for the vast majority of serious, long-lasting negative effects on the quality, habitat, and aquatic life of our waterways.]



## Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

### Friends of SWNP Special Monthly Meeting

*Free and open to the public*

**Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 pm**



### *Here be Dragons! Odonates at SWNP*

#### **Brent Franklin**

**Texas Master Naturalist and Past President  
Cross Timbers Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists**

**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](http://www.swnp.org) or e-mail [info@swnp.org](mailto:info@swnp.org).



Odonate photos by Bob Brennan





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