

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 10

NOVEMBER 2019

Post Oak • Julia Burgen Linear Park

November Meeting

Pollinators

Wendy Pappas

Arlington Urban Forest and Land Manager

Wednesday, November 6, 7 pm

Fielder House Museum

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



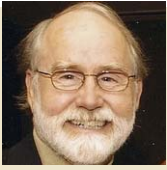
Wendy Pappas writes: I have loved plants all my life. When I was a small child I would stay with my great grandparents when my parents were at work. They had a huge vegetable garden and tons of flower garden around their house. I worked with my grandmother every day in the garden and fell in love with plants. When it was time to go to college, Horticulture seemed to be the right field for me. I attended the University of Arkansas and received a B.S in landscape horticulture with a minor in landscape design. While there, I had a chance to do my internship in Scotland where I worked at the Explorers garden in Pitlochry and the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. This was a life-changing experience.

Once I finished college I went to work for The Country Club of Little Rock, as head Landscape Horticulturist. I worked there for many years.

continued on page 10

Contents

- 3 From the President**
- 4 Bits & Pieces**
- 5 Question Corner**
- 9 Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve**
- 10 More Bits**
- 11 Environmental Hall of Shame**
- 12 Caddo Oak Dedication**
- 14 Molly Hollar Wildscape Update**
- 16 Go Wild in Idlewild**



From the President

Dick Schoech

Why we pollute and trash our planet and what needs to change



On two recent Master Naturalist canoe trips down Dallas sections of the Trinity River, I was shocked to see all the trash. We saw thousands of bottles, bags, and countless other trash. Old tires were on the banks and in the water, at times grounding our canoe as we tried to float over them. We even saw an abandoned landfill that was now a favorite place for car buffs to find antique car parts.

This experience made me ask why DFW's major waterways are trashed to the extent that the water is unfit for people to swim, eat the fish, and even touch. I thought of the following reasons:

People are pigs. Out of respect for pigs, I will avoid this often used and false cause.

Overpopulation. There are just too many humans crammed into too little space. This reason is rarely mentioned. But while family size is slowly decreasing, the global population is projected to continue to grow from the current 7.7 billion to 10.9 billion in 2100.

It's profitable. It is currently cheaper for people and corporations to pollute our planet than to pay for responsible sustainable actions.

Polluting saves people time. When polluting is easy, cheap, saves time, and has few consequences, then people obviously pollute. In 2018, the wealthiest 1% of American households controlled 40% of America's wealth and income inequality is predicted to increase in coming years. Consequently, most people have to work more hours just to live.

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

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, John Darling,
Jim Domke, Jim Frisinger,
Marian Hiler, Carol Marcotte,
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

The Terse Tree Hugger

Stupid annuals.

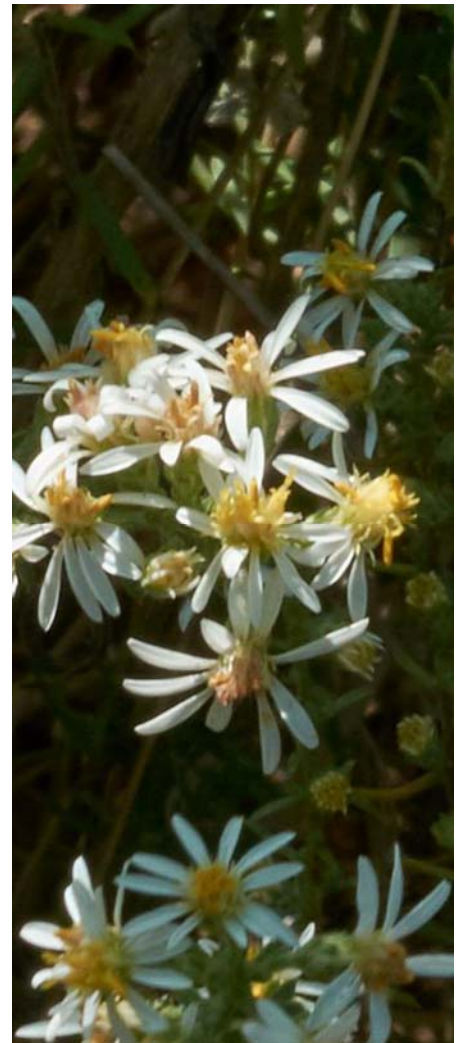
Buy some. Look at unnatural colors when the world should be brown.

Then throw them out and buy more next year.

Nope.



Visit us on the Web
www.acctexas.org



INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Julia Burgen Park Trail Connection

This meeting is to share information about a new trail connection at Julia Burgen Park. For more information, please contact Park Manager Mitali Mandelkar at Mitali.Mandelkar@arlingtontx.gov or 817-459-5478

MEETING Monday, November 18 6:00—7:00 pm
 George W. Hawkes Downtown Library
 [re]Brary room A&B 100 S Center St.

More Yucca Morsels



That's right, your editor has developed a yucca obsession. Here we have a Glen Rose yucca seed pod from SW Nature Preserve that a yucca moth larva (probably) ate its way out of after growing up on a diet of yucca seeds. And below, seeds ravaged by some larva. Here's the thing: Only the bogus yucca moth (a parasite) seems to be recorded from our county. So are our yuccas being fertilized? And if so, by some mutualistic moth we haven't seen yet? Make a note for a night walk next April.

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



Question Corner John Darling

Professor Question Corner has exhausted himself thinking deep evolutionary thoughts about yuccas, so here's a low-level question that has no good answer: If one little 4 x 8 foot patch of Gregg's mistflower makes 11 migrating Monarchs happy all at the same time, then why on earth isn't Arlington absolutely overrun with this wonderful, easy perennial flower? It's a complete mystery.



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/arlingtontx
Hours 10 - 6 Mon - Fri,
9 - 6 Sat, 12 - 5 Sun

Remodeling

General Contracting

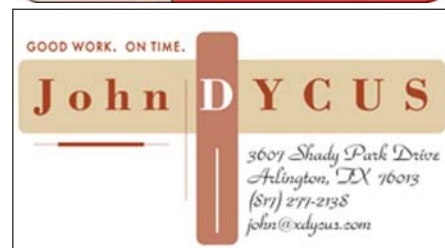
SCHWETTMANN CONSTRUCTION CO.

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

Mailing Address
1813 W. Tucker
Arlington, TX 76013

Fax 817-583-6266 E-mail: schwettmammarvin@sbcglobal.net



From the President continued from page 3



We are marketed to like stuff. We are constantly bombarded with all the great things we need to increase our pleasure and status. Advertising falsely tells us the more stuff we have the happier and more admired we will be.

Religions often promote human welfare above planet welfare. “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it” is often understood as our biblical mandate rather than “protect the earth to make it better for future generations than we found it.” We may have to rediscover primitive religions to learn the reverence for mother earth that will stop pollution.

Polluters control the watchdogs. Case in point, the Dallas City Council passed a 5-cent single-use plastic bag ordinance in 2015 to help clean up the city. Then the plastic bag industry sued the city and it was repealed 5 months later. In 2018, the Texas Supreme Court ruled plastic bag bans violate state law. The official goal of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is “clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.” However, it seems the true goal is to allow industries to pay off politicians so they can pollute as much as they want as long as there is no public outcry. Our politicians will allow pollution as long as it helps them get re-elected. In Texas, few politicians can stand up to polluters and stay in office. So much for “Don’t mess with Texas” as the following quote indicates.

“When the Clean Water Act was passed 45 years ago, Congress declared that all of our waterways would be clean by 1983 and that all direct discharge of pollutants would cease by 1985. Decades later, 40 percent of our nation’s rivers, lakes, and streams are still polluted. It’s time for Texans to speak up and tell our officials that we want clean water now.” <https://www.caller.com/story/opinion/2018/04/02/no-1-rank-texas-doesnt-want-water-pollution/479676002/>

Our economic system promotes it. Modern society is built on production and consumption, not sustainability. When people stop buying stuff, our economic system slows, politicians get nervous, and incentives to increase consumption increase.

Corporate ownership dilutes accountability and focuses on profits, not sustainability. Consider that your retirement savings are probably invested in global economic development mutual funds, so you may unknowingly be financing palm oil plantations that are illegally replacing endangered rain forests throughout the world.

Exploiting the earth is profitable. The world is overrun with plastic, yet global petrochemical companies are building huge plastic plants in the Corpus Christi area to convert west Texas oil and gas into the plastics the planet will use and throw away.

continued on page 7

From the President continued from page 6

We believe that technology will solve our problems. We have been lucky that technology has been able to solve many of our big pollution problems. However, now technology is becoming more of the problem rather than the solution. Technology has produced new products faster than governments and citizens can examine them for their long-term negative impact. For example, nanoparticles in products like sunscreen, makeup, fabrics, medicines, etc., are too small to be seen and removed by water treatment plants. We are just beginning to understand that disintegrated plastics and especially nanoparticles are absorbed by algae, eaten by plankton which are then consumed by fish to eventually enter the human food chain. and even passed on in breast milk. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acsnano.6b01782>

NIMBY. People often say Not in My Back Yard to pollution, but will not educate or help others not to pollute.

The problem is overwhelming. Feeling overwhelmed typically leads to inaction. For example, see the picture of the canoe launching area. The pile of trash was too big for our group that was on a time schedule to pick up and we had not arrived with the needed trash bags, trash pickers, gloves, etc.

So, now that the problem is obvious and some causes are suggested, what are some solutions?

Promote worldwide ready and voluntary access to birth control.

This action alone can reduce the pollution from the 99 million children born to unwanted pregnancies each year. It will also reduce climate change by 40+%. https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2019/10/the-climate-change-solution-scientists-have-been-overlooking/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=food-for-thought-2019-10-20

https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2019/10/the-climate-change-solution-scientists-have-been-overlooking/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=food-for-thought-2019-10-20

https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2019/10/the-climate-change-solution-scientists-have-been-overlooking/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=food-for-thought-2019-10-20

<https://srh.bmj.com/content/early/2019/09/17/bmj.srh-2019-200399>

Increase accountability. Encourage governments to create incentives to make people and corporations responsible for their pollution.

Help change our culture. Cultural shifts are difficult but possible taking one step at a time. Look to our youth such as Greta Thunberg and her followers who are begging and shaming us to wake us up to our responsibilities to our planet.

Vote and participate in society. This November, vote for Prop 5 that will guarantee sales taxes on sporting goods would go to fund only state and local parks and historic sites as was originally intended.

continued on page 8



From the President continued from page 7

Don't vote for politicians who promise things at the expense of the planet. So far, the 2020 political candidates have not adequately addressed sustainability. We need to demand they do.

Ensure your religion is caring for God's planet. Help your church members understand nature and become good stewards of the earth.

Don't participate in the consumption society. Curb your addiction to stuff. Participate in the ACC raffle at our meetings to recycle, reduce, reuse, repair rather than accumulate more stuff.

Understand nature. It is hard to love something you do not understand. The more you know about nature, the more you will understand that everything is connected and destroying one part of nature damages all the rest.

Set an example to the people you know. Humans are herd animals genetically inclined to follow leaders, stay with the pack, and not protest. Those who deviate from group norms are frequently singled out to be punished, e.g., whistle blowers. However, you can step up to lead the herd. For example, plant a pollinator garden even if it is considered an eyesore by some of your neighbors.

Work to change economic incentives. The Trinity river is surrounded by urban hardwood forests that are seen by most as an eyesore, but communities can turn an eyesore into a perpetual gold mine. See this example where a city took out a loan to purchase a beautiful local forest. The loan is now paid off by sustainable forest management so the profits can now be put into city services.

https://www.tpl.org/blog/new-hampshire-forest-conservation-pays-itself?utm_source=oct_enews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=enews&utm_content=errol

Conclusion. In 2018, I visited Heidelberg Germany and saw how the Neckar River running through the city was a mecca for relaxation and recreation. Both sides of the river had walking and bike paths. Sail and paddle boards, sailboats, tourist boats, and all kinds of human activity used the river. This can happen in Arlington. The north Dallas Elm fork of the Trinity River was much cleaner than the southern part due to citizen action. Groundwork Dallas, a nonprofit funded by individuals, foundations, and corporations, has mobilized youth since 2017 to remove over 160,000 pounds of trash and debris from the Trinity River and surrounding forest areas.

<http://groundworkdallas.org/>

In summary, with citizen action, the Trinity River can be our money producing playground rather than our sewer.



Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller



More Bits

I DREAMT OF GOLDFINCHES

John Blair

Last night I dreamt of goldfinches
Clustered on the feeders
That surround my patio.

It's October's end,
Still far too soon
For real ones to appear

Although the early snow
Reported just today
In central Kansas

Is bound to push them south
Within a week or so
To decorate the garden

With their yellow feathers,
Stir the leaves with flurried flight,
Warm the air within my house

With sights of pointy beaks
And plush breasts
Inches past the window glass.

©2019 John I. Blair, 10/31/2019



Thanks to Our Last Speaker

In October, Arlington City Council Member-at-Large Victoria Farrar-Myers spoke to a large crowd about city environmental initiatives. A tough topic, you might think, in a town



Left, Dr Victoria Farrar-Myers with ACC board member Grace Darling.

that many of us regard as indifferent to the environment. However, Dr Farrar-Myers presented a long list of concrete accomplishments — including everything from increased use of recycled asphalt to LED street lights and tree planting. We haven't heard from such an engaged, knowledgeable council member since Julia Burgen's tenure.

Our Next Speaker continued from page 2

I moved to Texas around 7 years ago and started working for the City of Arlington in golf but quickly decided that was not the place for me. The Urban Forest position came open and I got the job. I was Urban Forester for a few years when Urban Forest and Land Manager position came available. I got that job and here I am today.

I have a Texas pesticide license and irrigators license; I'm an ISA certified Arborist with hazard tree certification, Past President of CTUFC, Superintendent of TCJJLS horticulture division and a Member of Arlington Nooners Toastmasters.

Personally, I have a beautiful daughter, a wonderful husband, 3 dogs and a rabbit. I love to hike (like every weekend) and travel. I have a hiking, travel and garden blog, mywonderfulwalk.com.



Eight or so of these beauties were poking out of a grassy parking lot edge one night lately, looking almost like they wanted to be a fairy ring but lacked the organizational skills.

The Arlington Environmental Hall of Shame

Sadly, more plastic this month, this time a careless pile of many thousands of tiny pieces ready to be washed into a nearby storm drain and out of sight. Except that it's a short ride to a creek that empties into Johnson Creek, which flows now and then into the Trinity River. How many pieces will travel all the way to the Gulf? Maybe none, but they'll cause plenty of damage along the way.



Caddo Oak Now a Texas Historic Tree Jim Frisinger

The Caddo Oak is part of a post oak/blackjack oak forest on Kennedale Mountain, which dominates the Southwest Nature Preserve. More than 1,175 species of plants, animals and bugs have been identified here drawn by such diverse habitat as ponds, meadows and rocky outcrops common to the Eastern Cross Timbers environment.

The Texas Historic Tree Coalition is an all-volunteer organization that works with communities across the State of Texas to recognize and celebrate great old trees. The Dallas-based group also stresses the importance of proper care and protection of these living natural assets and teaches the benefits of older, large-canopy trees in the urban environment.

“We’re grateful to the Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve for their work to restore and protect this land,” said Mary Graves, President of the Texas Historic Tree Coalition. “The Friends’ research tells the story of centuries of human occupation, and the great old tree that stands as a living connection to the people who’ve gone before us. The post oak is historically significant, and it’s also an important engine that works hard to cool and clean the air, clean the soil, prevent erosion, and slow storm water runoff. We think of it as the Grand Daddy of the preserve.”

Archaeological digs show the neighborhood, with running streams and springs, had human settlement for thousands of years. Many farming tribes moved into the valley below the preserve in the early 1800s after being routed from their homes by the European conquest of East Texas. The tribes, including the Caddo, engaged in an active cooperative trade with plains tribes, such as the Comanche. Collected artifacts and oral histories indicate the Bluff Overlook at the preserve was a Native American lookout and perhaps even a Comanche signal site with sweeping views of Village Creek (formerly Caddo Creek). Texas accounts of the Battle of Village Creek in 1841 report a Native American community of 225 lodges and 300 acres of cultivated pumpkins, squash and corn.

The Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve is a volunteer organization educating the community about nature through restoration and enhancement efforts at the 58-acre city-owned facility.



Jim Frisinger with Caddo Oak. Right, Mary Graves, President of the Texas Historic Tree Coalition, addresses the audience at the dedication. Photos on this page by Jim Domke.

Caddo Oak continued from page 12



Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason and Carol Marcotte



Bee nosing a fall aster. Too bad we can't hear the appreciative hum the bee is giving.



What could be more beautiful for your garden than native plants that support the native insects and creatures that live on them? Pictured: red penstemon, yellow cowpen daisy, and purple fall aster.

Go Native! See what it gets you. Start with a butterfly garden and watch the web of life spread out before you. Bees and butterflies will delight you. Spiders, toads and lizards will delight in you. Beautiful and life-supporting native plant gardens are the future, but the insects, birds, bats and other critters need our help. We just need to convince a few more people.

Approximately 80 customers at the annual plant sale in September enthusiastically snared more than 670 plants, leaving the greenhouse low on some of the most popular offerings. Kay Sekio worked up an excellent analysis: publicity, number of plants sold in what size pots, and whether or not the plants were blooming. Next year will be even bigger and better as we advertise sooner and to the general public.

You never know who you'll run into at the Molly Hollar Wildscape. On Wednesday Oct. 23, Dr. David D. Hopman brought his UTA class to study how native plants enhance a landscape. He highly encourages his students to "think native first." His hands-on approach is proof that he teaches by example.

Dr. Hopman has a long list of publications covering the broad and continually evolving way that landscape architects approach planting design. He prepared a master plan for the city for the blackland prairie site in 2008, and he researched, designed, installed, and now manages the first extensive green roof in the DFW area on the UTA Life Science Building.

Dr Hopman has involved his students in creating a master plan for Randol Mill Park. He is well suited for that project, with research interests in landscape aesthetics, the interpretation and design of regional ecological communities in complex cultural landscapes, and computer visualization. Dredging the pond and planting along the creek has already begun.

ACC is proud to call Dr. Hopman our friend. *(Photo on next page)*

continued on page 15

Wildscape Update continued from page 14



The wildscape has received another accolade. The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) will tour the wildscape during its November 2020 symposium. A little background: Since its inception the society has held an annual gathering. In 1991, NPSOT initiated an educational project designed to explore the ecology of the many vegetation regions of Texas through a series of symposia undertaken in conjunction with its annual members' meeting. Each year the meeting convenes in a different region. Field trips, workshops and exhibits complement the presentations. The symposium is also open to the public. While our weekly volunteers often get praise for their work, the wildscape needs to be at its very best for the symposium. November 2020 seems like a long way away, but that is only 12 First Saturday work days. Don't procrastinate. Help make Molly proud of her creation.

Tireless plant wrangler Josephine Keeney decided to build a wall to keep people from shortcutting across a section of her butterfly

garden at the wildscape entrance. In the middle of a work day, she drove out to the greenhouse in her Honda Fit and single handedly gathered eight autumn sage plants, which she brought back through traffic obstructions and too many signal lights.

As the wall went into the ground, Joe Martinez and Marylee Thomason carried cedar logs, formerly used for kiosks, and added them to the base. If it looks natural, all the better, but it is definitely a wall so don't cross it.



Left to right, Josephine Keeney, Joe Martinez, and Jane Oosterhuis plant the new wall of salvia to discourage people from cutting across a corner of the butterfly garden.

Go Wild in Idlewild: Workshops for Kids Marian Hiler



At the October Go Wild in Idlewild workshop, Michael Smith kept everyone interested when he literally introduced the participants to reptiles and amphibians. He brought three snakes (western rat snake, prairie kingsnake, and Great Plains rat snake) and a Woodhouse's toad. Everyone had the opportunity to see them up close and even touch them if they wanted to. Michael also provided his informative and colorful handout, "An Identification Guide to Venomous Snakes of North Texas," which you can download [here](#).

The monthly workshops are designed to encourage school children to engage with the environment around them. They are organized by ACC and cohosted by partner and benefactor Idlewild Botanical. Each is free and open to the public and held at Idlewild Botanical, 5111 W. Arkansas Lane.



Next Workshop
Saturday, November 16
10:00. Just show up and have fun.

At the November *Go Wild in Idlewild* workshop, plant ecologist Suzanne Tuttle will share tips and techniques for dividing common plants to share. Participants will also have the opportunity to take a newly divided plant home with them.



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 tax-deductible. ACC is a nonprofit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization. If you cannot pay, 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 Wayne Halliburton
Interim Secretary Grace Darling

Treasurer Marian Hiler
Program Coordinator Grace Darling
Webmaster Frank Keeney

Editor John Darling
Board Members Danny Kocurek
Mike Kolanko
Student Member Nicholas Kocurek

POST OAK

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

November Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 7 pm

Fielder House Museum
1616 W. Abram Street

Pollinators
Wendy Pappas
Arlington Urban Forest and Land Manager