

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

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JANUARY 2020



**PHOTO BY BOB BRENNAN
SOUTHWEST NATURE PRESERVE**

January Meeting

Annual Potluck & Business Meeting

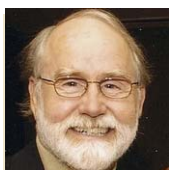
Saturday, January 11, 10:00 am – noon
The Montessori Academy
3428 W Arkansas Lane, Arlington TX 76016



Somehow, it's already time again to prepare (or pick up) a little food, do some sitting around, eat and talk, review our last environmental year, and elect new officers. And of course, it's also time to express your biggest local environmental concerns, share your interests, and be sure your ACC knows what you think it should be doing in 2020. See you there.

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From the President

Dick Schoech

Were Plastics and Litter in Your New Year's Resolutions?

One of the major issues facing the world concerns plastics. The destruction caused by plastic, especially single use plastic, continues to receive worldwide attention now that China and other developing countries are refusing to accept developed countries' waste.

Were your holidays plastic-reduction-friendly? Did you make holiday wrapping paper that was recyclable? If yes, great, but did it actually get recycled along with all the boxes that the presents came in? January is the time to reflect, take stock of our habits and resolve to change habits that are not environmentally friendly or sustainable for the planet. After taking stock, I invite you to include plastic reduction in your new year's resolutions.

The oil and gas industry is increasingly feeling the heat from environmentalists advising to keep fossil fuels in the ground to address global warming. The oil industry's response is to diversify into alternative energy and to find other uses for oil and gas, such as plastics. Huge plastic plants are being planned and built by multinational energy companies along the Gulf coast, especially in the Corpus Christi area.¹ As cheap plastic for every imaginable use floods the market, 2020 is a good time for all of us to take stock of how we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, especially single-use plastics. If we don't use all these plastics, they will not be produced. We cannot clean up all the plastic on our streets and in our parks now, so the solution is not more plastic clean up but less production.

The ACC Plastic Reduction Group discovered one enlightening fact: 97% surveyed would pay more attention to littering if their children asked them to.² Sadly, only 32% of parents say their child has talked to them about littering. So, my message for January 2020 is to reflect, resolve and promote plastic reduction to make this a

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ACC POST OAK

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

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

Bits & Pieces

The Terse Tree Hugger

Fear and loathing at my
once pleasant feed store.

Another happy place shot
all to heck.



Visit us on the Web
www.acctexas.org



Lamentable Lawmakers

It can be hard (and just plain depressing) to keep track of our legislators and their environmental votes, but if you can stand it, Sierra Club makes the job easy.

For all the legislative environmental rankings and more, go to
<https://www.sierraclub.org/texas/2019-legislative-scorecard>

And just in case you generally don't want to think about it, almost all of Arlington is in District 94, whose State Representative is Tony Tindderholt (18% environmental goodness). A bit of far south Arlington is included in District 96, which is represented by Bill Zedler (36.8%), who won't be running again. Our State Senator is Beverly Powell (63.7%).

Missed It Again



It's too easy for many of us to look beyond the soil and focus instead on the more obvious plants and animals we value. No surprise then that the latest World Soil Day has come and gone essentially unnoticed in Arlington. Always the same question though: Can one designated day make a difference? Go look [here](#) and [here](#) and see what you think about this special day.

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



Question Corner John Darling

Q: We hear that freshwater mussel populations almost everywhere are declining. Is this important? What's the local situation?

A: Even if we start by knowing nothing about mussels, it's disturbingly easy to verify their decline. Try [this](#) and [this](#). The reasons, however, are numerous and some are not yet known. And yes, it's important because mussels not only filter water but they play other significant roles in the aquatic ecosystem. They can be considered canaries in a coal mine, and they're sending out a bad message.

From [a good article](#) in the Tyler Loop: Texas has roughly 50 species of freshwater mussels, 37 of which make their home in East Texas. Fifteen species have been put on the

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

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From the President continued from page 3

fantastic year for our environment. To help you, the ACC Plastic Reduction Group has developed the following flyer on reducing plastics, especially single-use plastics that typically end up as trash or litter.

References

1. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-06-13/exxon-sabir-greenlight-new-texas-plant-to-process-shale-output>
2. <http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/about/litter-facts/>

THE IMPACT OF AMERICAN LITTERING

THE COSTS OF LITTER ARE CONSIDERABLE

Cleanup costs: The U.S. spends almost \$11.5 billion yearly. Businesses pay \$9.1 billion of this.²

Lower property values: a 7% decrease, according to the National Association of Home Builders.³

Fewer local jobs: 36% of business development officials say litter impacts decisions to locate to a community.³

Lost revenue: Litter deters customers from entering a business. It also results in lost tourism, cost to human health, wildlife injury, and costs of vehicles and ecosystem repair.

LITTER HAS TERRIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

For neighborhood: Traffic, animals, wind and rain move litter into gutters, landscaped areas, alleyways and parking structures.

For ocean: Trash is carried by storm drains into local waterways and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico, where plasticized microfibers are found in 90% of aquatic samples taken from Corpus Christi to the Florida Keys.⁴

Critter impacts: Birds and other animals eat plastic and styrofoam food containers. Fish and plankton eat small plastic particles. 220 pounds of trash including fishing nets, ropes, and plastic cups and bags were found in the stomach of a beached 26-ton starving sperm whale.⁵ Microplastics have even been found in infants and human breast milk.⁶

INTERESTING LITTER FACTS

51 billion+ pieces of litter are released on American roadways each year - 6,729 items per mile of roadway annually, 91% of it less than 4 inches in size.²

The most common litter is food/organic material, cigarette butts, and small pieces of paper — receipts, gum wrappers⁷

By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans.⁸ Microplastic particles exist in snow from the Alps to the Arctic.⁹

Republic Services, Arlington's garbage hauler, runs a crew to help pick up litter in neighborhoods. Several city departments work to prevent litter in our parks, streets, rights-of-way and neighborhoods.

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From the President continued from page 6

Arlington's Environmental Programs Division has an annual budget of approximately \$100,000 for solid waste and recycling education and special litter-oriented programs.

Two out of three Americans would be willing to pay more for products made out of environmentally sustainable materials to avoid single-use plastic products and help save the planet.¹⁰

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Don't litter. Encourage others not to litter, e.g., suggest keeping light items out of the bed of your truck.

Avoid potential trash. Carry reusable bags and containers in your car to avoid single-use plastic.

Pick up trash when you walk and encourage others to pick up trash also.

Talk about it. Ninety percent of parents tell their children not to litter, and 97% would pay more attention to littering if their children asked them to. Only 32% of parents say their child has talked to them about littering.⁷

References

1. Note: The 2009 National Visible Litter Study and Litter Cost Study was prepared by MidAtlantic Solid Waste Consultants for Keep America Beautiful, Inc.
2. <https://hampton.gov/958/Keep-America-Beautiful-Litter-Research>
3. http://www.lagrange-ga.org/Home/Anti_Litter_Campaign
4. <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/gray-matters/article/How-microplastics-are-ruining-the-Gulf-of-Mexico-12511165.php>
5. <https://news.yahoo.com/whale-found-dead-220-pound-134639460.html>
6. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4381877/>
7. <http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/about/litter-facts/>
8. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/the-plastic-problem>
9. <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/8/eaax1157>
10. <https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/poll-says-majority-americans-willing-191830311.html>

Note: Arlington Conservation Council, Plastic Reduction Project welcomes feedback in person or at no-plastic@acctexas.org. Plastic reduction group member are: Candy Halliburton, Jane Oosterhuis, Dick Schoech, Sarah Stephens, Joanne Stewart and Corey Troiani.



Question Corner continued from page 5

state's endangered species list and six are under consideration.

For information at the local level, I consulted Glenn Clingenpeel, Executive Manager, Technical Services and Basin, Trinity River Authority. I found his message more encouraging than much of the mussel news. Here it is:

Unfortunately there is not a lot of information available about native mussels, especially in the Trinity River, which has been historically understudied.

Case in point, we are not sure that the Trinity mussel populations are actually in decline.

Though some species were almost certainly extirpated from the upper Trinity in the early 1900s (when

water quality was very poor), there are numerous mussel beds in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Because of the lack of baseline data, we can't say whether those populations are getting better or worse, but since water quality has improved so dramatically over the last half century, I can only imagine that those populations have benefited. Water quality in the Main Stem was that bad back in the early 1900s and the ecology has done a remarkable job of recovering as water quality has improved.

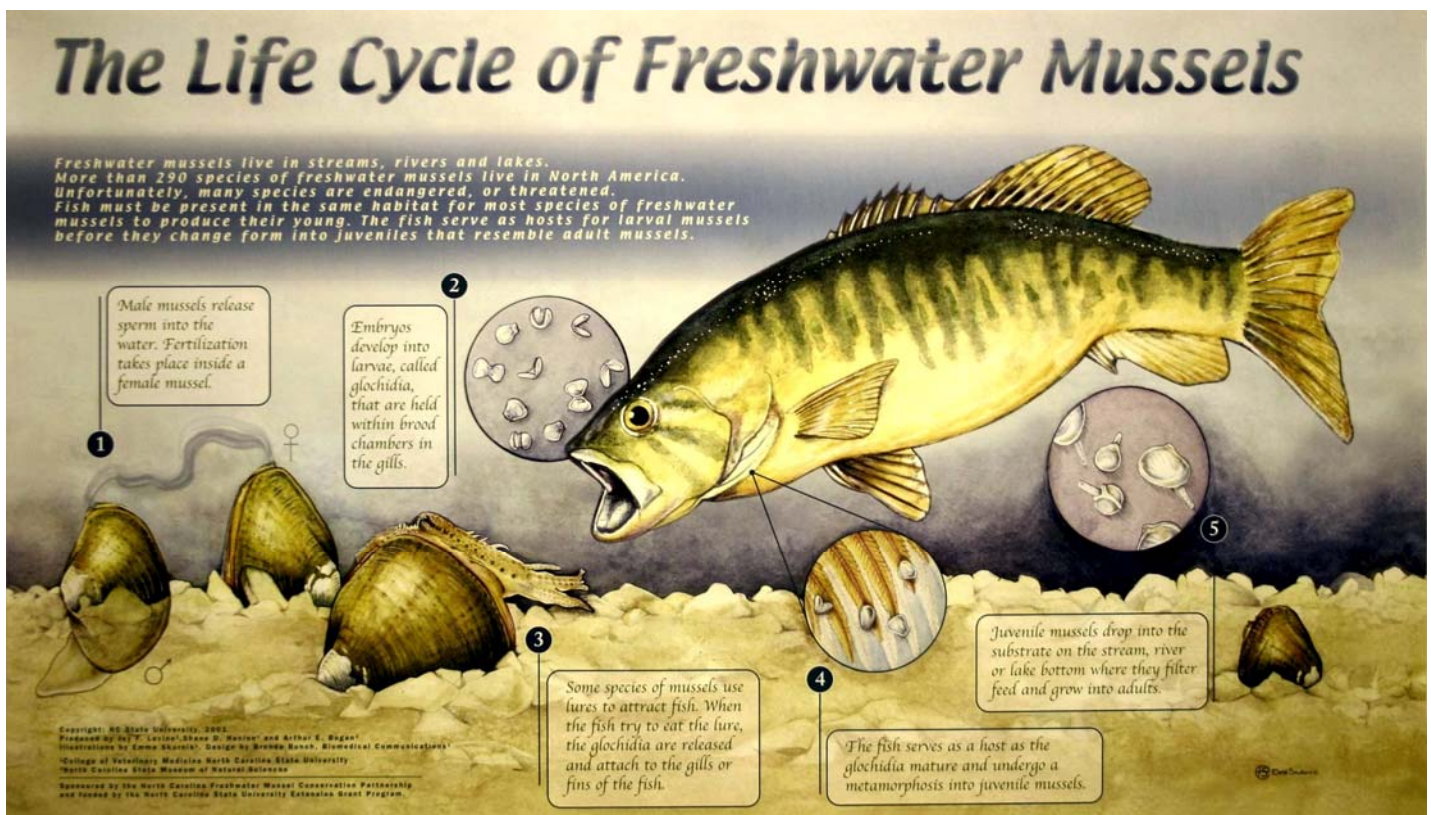
The Elm Fork in particular has a very rich mussel population, though the hydrology has changed there, and they may not be the same mussels one would have found 100+ years ago. The city of Dallas releases water from Lake

Lewisville for downstream water supply. This keeps the Elm Fork flowing even under conditions when it would have gone (naturally) bone-dry, and decimated the mussel beds.

In the upper Trinity, base flows have likewise increased significantly, though this may be causing bottom scour that is not beneficial for mussels and therefore limiting.

In the middle Trinity there are numerous healthy mussel beds, and we continue to find mussels in places we did not expect (probably because we haven't done a good job of looking for them in the past).

This is truly a fascinating issue, and infinitely more complex than one might imagine.



Renewed Native Plant Bed Josephine Keeney

We have formed a group made up of Master Naturalists and other interested volunteers; we call ourselves the Pollinators group.

We were asked to replant a bed at River Legacy Living Science Center that had been neglected, and we accepted in the fall of 2018.

Here are the pictures that show our work. We maintain this garden one Monday a month from 9 to 12. *Right*, the bed after years of neglect. *Below*, newly installed natives now off to a good start. *Photos by Josephine Keeney.*



PERENNIAL *John Blair*

Like magic
The fresh green comes up
From last year's roots
Replacing the crisp brown
Of dead leaves.

Not all plants do this –
Petunias once gone
Are gone forever.

But so many, so many,
Fennel, rosemary,
Tradescantia and a world more
Seem indefatigable.

Each year a miracle happens
That is so ordinary
No one pays attention
Except me, it seems.

And I'm always there,
Waiting, watching,
Hoping for the miracle
To continue.

©2019 John I. Blair,
12/26/2019

More Bits

THREE CROWS FLEW AWAY

John Blair

This morning, after dawn,
Three crows flew away
From a limb beside my drive.

I heard them flap
Before I saw them
Rive the muggy morning air
Discordantly.

Evidently I'd disturbed
A muster of our local gang,
Broken up a crow cabal
Convening in an arching ash
To plan corvine agendas.

I'll never know
Quite what they had in mind . . .
Chevrolet defilement,
Thrush infanticide,
Or just rapacious
Rushes at my lawn.

©2004 John I. Blair

Take a Quiet Moment

Carol Marcotte

Here is a very short video taken at Molly Hollar Wildscape. It's called "A Moment in Nature - Babbling Brook at Wildscape."

<https://youtu.be/55h4hIMTDLU>

Thanks to Our Last Speaker

Our November speaker was Wendy Pappas (shown with ACC board member Wayne Halliburton) from Arlington Parks & Recreation. As Urban Forest and Land Manager, Wendy is in a good



position to tell us about the city's efforts to encourage pollinators. And she did just that, armed with facts and figures that told an encouraging story.

It was good to learn that our city appears to be taking the pollinator crisis seriously, and we're indebted to Wendy for bringing us this positive message.

It's Time to Pay Your Dues

Please make us bigger so we can be better. ACC's size is important when voicing members' environmental interests and concerns to municipal policymakers on issues such as new gas wells.

Plus it will just make you feel better to increase ACC's environmental voice in Arlington.

See the last page of this newsletter for information on submitting your 2020 dues. Or you can bring them to the February ACC meeting and hand them to Marian Hiler, our treasurer.

And Still More Bits

Check out the mowed and edged part of this vacant lot that has been enhanced with native plants. Find out why that edge is part of dealing with weed ordinance inspections in [this thoughtful article](#).



The Arlington Environmental Hall of Shame

When it comes to raked lawns we can show both fame and shame this month, but shame wins hands down in terms of Arlington's leafless acreage. The Lawn Leaves story has grown a lot over the last 10 years or so, replacing rake, bag and toss with rake and compost or rake and spread in planting beds as mulch. Now, with very good reason we've arrived at the ultimate: Don't rake and definitely don't blow those leaves — they're overwintering habitat for all sorts of small creatures, many of which are facing rapid decline. Read [this](#) for an alarming report that emphasizes the environmental dangers of leaf blowers.



2019 – Another Great Year of ACC Meetings



February Joao Pimentel



March Shawn Reeder & Paula Luna



April Kevin Sloan



May
James Blackshear



June 1 to 7, Wes Miller, Paula Harbour, Carol Marcotte,
Ann Knudsen, Ellen Ravkind, Anne Alderfer, David Hopman,
Jim Frisinger



August
Craig Cummings



September
Jeremy Priest



October
Victoria Farrar-Myers

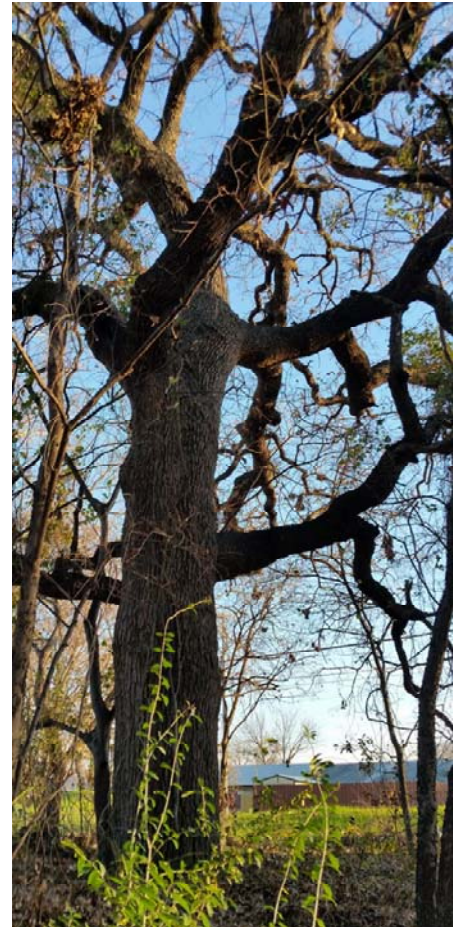


November
Wendy Pappas

Goodbye to a Stream, Maybe John Darling

That little patch of mostly scruffy woods along a tiny stream channel on Mayfield was still there on December 3 when we went out to say goodbye. A little good news for all the wintering birds (and who knows what else): The place has been spared so far from complete clearing for proposed town-homes. Even better, the project is off city council agenda indefinitely.

What will happen next is anyone's guess. But on that day at least, we could pretend that we happened on a beat-up oasis, a rustic surprise festooned with fast food trash. And the best was last, when the little ditch widened into a tranquil pond. There the plaintive call of a flicker convinced us that we weren't flanked by old warehouses, traffic, and a tattoo parlor. Just nature, still hanging on.



Birding at Village Creek Drying Beds Marian Hiler

We couldn't have picked a better day for watching the ducks and shorebirds that had stopped at the Village Creek drying beds as they migrated from colder climes this fall. The air was crisp and the sky was sunny. Our favorite local expert, Charley Amos, led the group of birders all around the drying beds, helping to identify the many species of waterfowl. Another treat was the lone immature male vermilion flycatcher that graced us with his presence.

This November outing was part of the Go Wild in Idlewild nature workshops. The last, as it turned out. If you missed this one, not to worry. Charley will be leading more birdwatching outings. One is already being planned for this spring. Stay tuned for details.

Photos below by Marian Hiler.



Vermilion flycatcher at the drying beds.

Photo courtesy of Jim Frisinger.



Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

Erosion can be a problem in our home gardens, just as it is in parts of the wildscape. There are various solutions, but none works as well as a rain garden to slow the flow of water to capture and release it slowly to the surrounding soil.

Rain gardens are typically start about a foot deep at the low side and have a roughly level bottom. Native clay soil can be amended with compost to create an area the size and shape of your choosing. Plants for a rain garden must be able to tolerate wet feet for at least 24 hours. Inland sea oats and turks cap will be among the plants used in the wildscape locations.

Work started on the first of three planned rain gardens on a



Above, the rain garden takes shape. Below, the finished product.



Joe Martinez went beyond bending over backward to do a good job.

Wednesday work day and continued on the First Saturday. There was a lovely loamy layer of decayed vegetation and then there was clay. You may have forgotten what it is like to dig in clay. To refresh your memory, it is arduous, challenging and difficult, exasperating, fatiguing and grueling, hard, inconvenient, laborious and punishing. It's a pain.

The three rain gardens planned for the wildscape will be in the woody erosion area down the hill from the amphitheater. The first,

approximately 10 feet by 12 feet, is surrounded by rocks dug out of the clay. Little progress would have been made without Teresa Day-Fickel, who loaned her clay-handling broad forks for the project. If it weren't for the camaraderie and the jokes, it wouldn't have been any fun at all.

The Wednesday crew included Leah Breitenstine, Teresa Day-Fickel, Ann Knudsen, Joe Martinez, Jane Oosterhuis, and Mary-

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Wildscape Update continued from page 15

lee Thomason. On Saturday, the same brave souls showed up, along with Jim Domke, Dawn Hancock, Frank Keeney, and Carol Marcotte.

Rosalie Rogers and her husband, Randy Farmer, are moving to North Carolina for retirement. Joe Martinez separately invited the wildscape volunteers to a going away gathering, telling each not to discuss it with anyone else. The subterfuge worked: Rosalie and Randy were surprised that it was not going to be just a quiet evening with Joe and Norma, but a real party.

Rosalie has been volunteering at the wildscape for more years than anyone can remember. She is a gracious, scholarly lady and we will miss her.

Guests included Molly Hollar, Teresa Day-Fickel and Bill Fickel, Josephine and Frank Keeney, Ann Knudsen, Carol and Bob Marcotte, Hester Schwarzer and Marylee Thomason. Joe and Norma Martinez are prize-winning hosts.

For the last mini-class, Rachel Richter, Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist, brought a collection of pelts and skulls of locally common animals. Her job includes outreach to a wide variety of people, situations and top-



Some of the guests at Rosalie's farewell party. Left to right, Randy Farmer, Marylee Thomason, Rosalie Rogers, Molly Hollar, Hester Schwarzer, Joe Martinez.

ics. She helps property managers handle wildlife, including situations with coyotes.

She explained that coyote attacks are extremely rare and seldom aggressive. They will become a nuisance if emboldened by people feeding them either directly or indirectly by putting out food that will attract rodents, a major part of a coyote's diet. She noted a situation where coyotes were approaching and sniffing golf bags. Some golfers were carrying snacks to feed coyotes! The sniffing coyotes were just checking to see if these were the ones.

Rachel passed around pelts from a white-tailed deer, coyote, bobcat, beaver, muskrat, raccoon, skunk and opossum while telling interesting bits of information about each. A skunk's dramatic change in fur color from a black body to

a white stripe is called aposematic — a clear warning to predators that it has defenses that make it a poor choice of prey.

An opossum has a vertical marsupial pouch unlike the horizontal ones in kangaroos. Coyotes have a light colored and often spotted coat.

Skulls reveal whether an animal is predator or prey or aquatic by the position of the eye sockets. Predators have eyes looking forward. Prey animal eyes see 180 degrees and aquatic animals have eyes on top of their heads. Teeth give diet clues. Herbivores have grinding teeth, carnivores have sheering teeth and omnivores have a combination of both.

Rachel finished the presentation with a heartfelt request. She is seeking our support for

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Wildscape Update

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important environmental legislation. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act that is now moving through Congress would give Texas \$53 million per year for the rescue and support of at-risk wildlife. The bill has passed in committee and will be coming up for a vote soon. She called it "the most significant funding for wildlife since the 1930s."

Ron Wright, U.S. Representative for Texas District 6, has expressed an interest in voting for it if he hears from more people in support. Now is the time to act. Call his office at 202-275-2002 or send an email from [this site](#) expressing your support.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act ([H.R. 3742](#)) will provide states, territories, and tribes with \$1.4 billion annually to catalyze proactive, on-the-ground, collaborative efforts to restore essential habitat and implement key conservation strategies, as described in each state's Wildlife Action Plan. This legislation follows the recommendation of a diverse group of conservation and industry leaders — the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources.

Nature Adventures on the Horizon

Marian Hiler

Idlewild Botanical closed their doors in November, leaving us sad and without a nearby nursery promoting natives and organic gardening. It also left us no venue for our newly established *Go Wild in Idlewild* monthly nature workshops for children. We don't yet have a fitting nursery to fill Idlewild Botanical's place, but the workshops now have a new name and a new place to meet.

Nature Adventures, Discoveries of the Wild will be held once a month at the Fielder House Museum on a Saturday afternoon starting in February or March. Specific information will be available as the workshops are set up. The one that was canceled in November is now rescheduled for April. That workshop was Pass-Along Plants — Sharing Your Favorites with Family and Friends for Free, and we're already looking forward to it.

Randol Mill Park Makeover Ideas

On December 3 at the Fielder House Museum, UTA Landscape Architecture students in Professor David Hopman's class presented their final project analysis and design solutions for Randol Mill Park's creek, pond and west side. Friends of the park, ACC members, and others were impressed by the insightful proposals, the skills of the students, and the remarkable illustrations. What a great thing if they could be made real.



Wonderful Ways to Save Money as an Eco-Friendly Shopper

Nancy Cullen nancy@granolagran.com granolagran.com

Despite what many people think, sustainable and budget-friendly shopping go hand in hand. Cutting down on excessive waste with smart shopping strategies will help you keep more money in your pocket and more trash out of the landfill. At the same time, consumer-conscious individuals can leverage all kinds of tips and tricks to save money on their green goods. Here are some of the best ways to shop eco-friendly without blowing your budget.

Save on Quality Products

One of the best ways to cut down on waste is to buy [high-quality products](#) that will last a long time. This is especially true when it comes to essentials like shoes, clothing, cookware, and furniture. Shelling out a little extra cash upfront for quality items will save you money in the long run since you won't have to buy replacements as often — if ever! Better yet, look for products made with recycled or reclaimed materials. Stores like Crate & Barrel have some excellent eco-friendly [furniture options](#) made from sustainable materials. Since these kinds of purchases can be pricey, be sure to grab some [Crate and Barrel coupons](#) before shopping.

Many times you can stack various money-saving opportunities to save big on your [shopping trips](#).

Combine store sales with product coupons and cashback opportunities for significant savings on everything from big-ticket items to weekly grocery trips.

Buy Used Whenever Possible

Another great way to save money on household goods is to [buy used](#). When you buy a gently used product, you're keeping it out of the landfill and giving it a second life. The best part: Used items are much cheaper than their brand-new counterparts. When you need something for your home, whether it's crafting supplies, holiday décor, storage containers, or kitchen essentials, check out your local thrift stores and consignment shops. You may even be able to find some great deals on quality products at garage sales and flea markets. If you're looking for something specific, search it up on [classifieds websites](#) like Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace.

Shop Local and Seasonal

When it comes to buying produce, you can save money and the planet by [shopping local](#). Food that was grown locally hasn't traveled thousands of miles on gas-guzzling trucks or overseas planes to get to you. Local food is also less likely to be packaged in plastic. Get in the habit of buying in-season produce to save money and enjoy

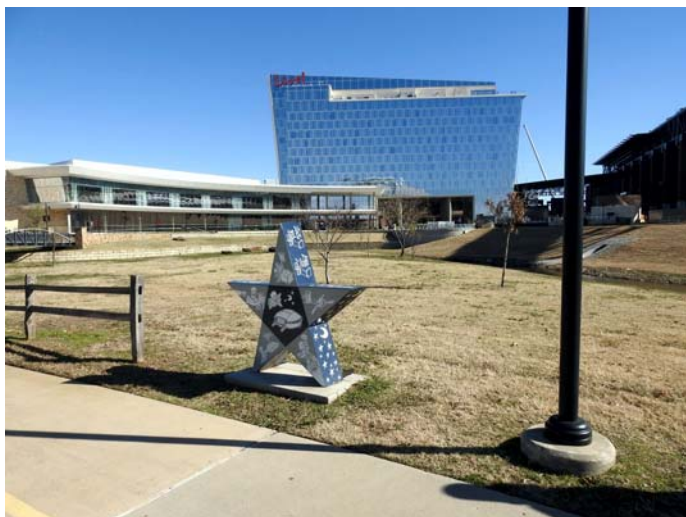
fresher, more nutritious whole foods. Mind Body Green stresses that when fruits or veggies are [in season](#), they are widely available at a much lower price than when they are rare and hard to grow.

Buy in Bulk

Try to buy your [pantry essentials](#) — from rice and beans to cleaning products — in bulk to save money and cut down on plastic waste. According to US News & World Report, [bulk products](#) are almost always cheaper per unit than their packaged counterparts. Plus, buying in bulk allows you to stock up on large quantities instead of spending money on pre-packaged products time and time again. This will also reduce the trips you have to take to the store, saving you gas and reducing your carbon footprint. Bulk buying is also a great way to save money on [meal prepping](#)!

One of the most important things to keep in mind about eco-friendly shopping is that you may have to make some bigger purchases at first. Expect larger up-front expenses for high-quality items and bulk products, and remember that these purchases will pay off eventually. Shop with the future in mind. Your budget — and the planet — will thank you!

Save Johnson Creek? John Darling



Recently, an ACC member reacted to the news of a big new hotel and convention center to be built near our baseball and football stadiums. He was concerned about the environmental effects on the section of Johnson Creek that supported Arlington's best riparian habitat (US Fish & Wildlife Service) before almost all of it

was lost to the Cowboys stadium and its enormous parking lots.

In December 2006, I devoted an issue of the *Post Oak* (available on our website) to Johnson Creek when it was a hot topic, primarily because of flooding around the stadium site and Six Flags. At about that time, consultants with Applied Ecological Services came

to town and took some trouble to assure local tree huggers that, following the drastic modifications required to reduce flooding, our creek would ultimately experience habitat restoration that would satisfy us.

Despite the consultants' fine words, one fact is paramount: To mitigate flooding you must make a creek bed wide and shallow. That means removing everything. Everything. During the miserable process I watched the destruction of so many old post oaks from behind locked gates that I decided to avoid the area indefinitely.

However, our member's concerns made me curious. After all, more than 10 years have gone by and maybe those consultants did the things they promised.

Consider my recent photos of the restored Johnson Creek as you read the sample below from a



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Save Johnson Creek? continued from page 19



meeting in October 2006: AES has retained a local expert in native plants and riverine ecology and will utilize local Stream Team expertise to ensure that plans are appropriate for this region and climate.

Will there be trees replanted or native plantings in that area? Yes, a large number of native trees, bushes, grasses and flowers will be planted to help stabilize soils, restore habitat and visually enhance the park.

Some audience members questioned the wisdom of working downstream before fixing upstream problems.

Is any property being removed from the floodplain in this project? Yes, some floodplain is anticipated to be reclaimed by both the Cowboys and the Glopark development projects. This land will be used for parking and roads.

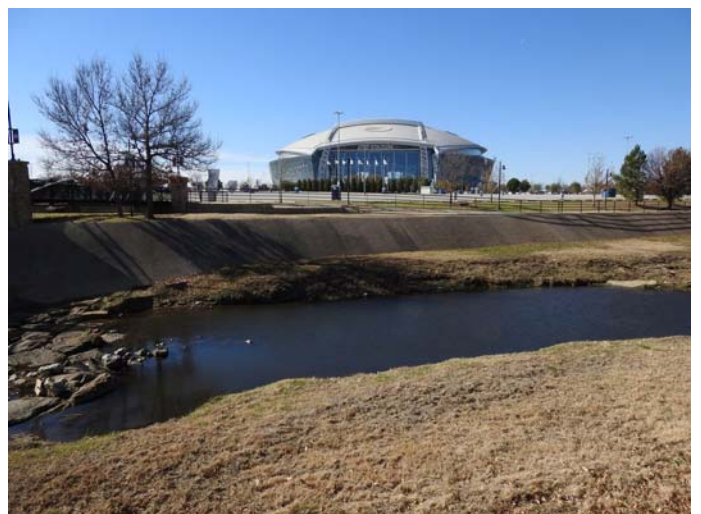
In addition to bioengineering, what other techniques will be used to accommodate this narrower stream corridor? What percentage of the creek will these techniques apply to? AES is following numerous design guidelines to maximize preservation, enhancement, and restoration of existing vegetation and wildlife habitat, maximize public enjoyment of the open space, reduce erosion and sedimentation, minimize flood damage, incorporate natural features, and favor low-maintenance, high-quality vegetation within the footprint provided. All aspects of the restoration project, including stream restoration and park development, will be accessible

for passive recreation on a variety of scales, thereby improving overall quality and use of the space that is available.

...Retaining walls or landscaped terraces will be applied where steep slopes must be maintained to accommodate trails, save trees, and maximize width of green space.

Are you waiting for a punch line? If there's anything funny here, it's this: We wanted to believe that those experts would somehow destroy our irreplaceable post oak forest and give us something of similar ecological value. And they're still in business. Unbelievable. We even took one of their main guys to dinner and he's still working there, trekking out to the sticks and dazzling the rubes with big talk.

Okay, at least it's not a concrete ditch, but so what? Save Johnson Creek? Not there, it's long gone. You want to save something, go kill some privet.



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**SPECIAL
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January Meeting
Saturday, January 11, 10:00 am – noon
The Montessori Academy
3428 W Arkansas Lane, Arlington TX 76016
Annual Potluck & Business Meeting