

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2020



MAYFIELD PLACE TOWNHOME SITE • PHOTO BY GRACE DARLING

April Meeting Cancelled

We'll see you again just as soon as it's safe.

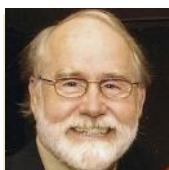
Meanwhile, please take very good care of yourselves.



Photo by Jim Domke

Contents

- 3 From the President
- 4 Bits & Pieces
- 5 Question Corner
- 7 Speaker Thanks, More Bits
- 8 Arlington Environmental Hall of Fame
- 9 Randol Mill Park
- 10 Arlington Environmental Hall of Shame
- 11 Blackland Prairie Natural Area
- 12 Molly Hollar Wildscape Update
- 16 Southwest Nature Preserve
- 19 In Case You Missed It



From the President

Dick Schoech

This Pandemic Gives Us the Time to Renew Our Connection to Mother Nature

While I have more time this month to write my President's message, it is difficult finding a topic that will overtake the panic everyone now fears at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Reports from hotspots are frightening and everyone is wondering if they are at the beginning stages of the next hotspot and how long it will last. Orders are to stay-at-home until further notice. At first, this may seem like a relief for busy activists like ACC members. However, after doing all those needy home chores, it seems like punishment because so much environmental work needs to be done. Most environmental projects are not urgent and involve working where the 6-foot distance rule is hard to follow. However, it is difficult to sit at home and watch the horrible coronavirus news on TV and see our politically divided country's struggling to come up with even basic solutions. Without testing for the virus, we are like a person driving lost in a blinding snowstorm knowing where we want to go but without visual cues, signs, or GPS to guide the way.

I often feel the virus is our planet taking revenge on the human species for multiplying without any consideration for how large numbers of people are destroying the planet. For example, the Endangered Species Act seems to currently be ignored and attempts are made to remove it altogether. Pesticides are killing off insects, including necessary pollinators like butterflies and bees. All ACC members can cite environmental tragedies that are occurring in their areas of interest. Then there is the almost forgotten problem of global warming due mostly to fossil fuel burning.

While Mother Nature can be cruel, she also points us to planet-friendly paths. Our flooding rains this year will again bring a fantastic display of wildflowers. The monthly pictures from Wes Miller, the Wildscape staff, and others in the *Post Oak* and pictures in the Friends of Tandy Hills newsletter are the best display of the beauty of Mother Nature that I have seen in many years. They are exceptions to our concrete, fast paced world. They show us the beauty that can be had by living in harmony with our environment.

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, Annabelle Corboy,
Michele Cyr, Grace Darling,
John Darling, Jim Domke,
Candy Halliburton, Ann Knudsen,
Carol Marcotte, Jan Miller,
Wesley Miller, Dick Schoech,
Marylee Thomason, Don Young

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

Positive?

You want positive in these strange times?

Okay:

Less traffic, less litter



Visit us on the Web
www.acctexas.org



World Water Day was March 22

This one was completely swallowed up by pandemic news, but just like all environmental issues, we can't afford to be distracted. Our global warming problems will be with us long after this terrible virus has subsided.



Even more important, Water Day this year emphasized the relationship between climate change and how we use and misuse water. Although the day has come and gone, [the site](#) contains some useful information, and most of all, reminders about the link to climate change.

What good are crane flies?

The classic answer (from the crane fly perspective): What good are you? However, once we understand that the adults are only briefly here to set up the next generation, we can focus on the larvae. The 14,000 species live from weeks to a year as larvae and occur in ponds, marshes,



streams or moist soil. Although some are predators, many eat fallen leaves and other dead organic matter. So as decomposers, they play a big role, and both larvae and adults are food for many predators, including dragonfly larvae, spiders, centipedes, beetles, and birds.

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



Question Corner Grace Darling

Q: I'm so bored! This self-isolation stuff is making me crazy. I've watched all the Icelandic detective shows I can stand. What else can I do?

A: I'm glad you're being responsible because you sound pretty toxic to me. Now would be a perfect time to take up mothing. (Bet you didn't know that was a verb.) It's easy and it can be very cheap, too. At the bottom end, just stare at your outside lights and take a cell phone photo of any moth that shows up. Then you can send it to [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org) and get suggestions for identification.



It turns out that moths are attracted by any bright light, but some species prefer differ-

continued on page 10

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



GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John DYCUS

3607 Shady Park Drive
Arlington, TX 76013
(817) 277-2138
john@jdycus.com

Remodeling General Contracting

SCHWETTMANN CONSTRUCTION CO.

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

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

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

Paul Krudsen's
ArlingtonNOW.com
Event Photography

Portfolio_Studio@yahoo.com
817.265.4441

Herb 'n Health
Natural Foods Market & Herb Shoppe

3759 E. Lancaster St. Ft. Worth, TX 76103
Karen Foley 817-535-1152

DAN HILER
817 460-TREE

ARBOR
TREE SERVICE INC

PRUNING REMOVAL FREE BIDS

SHANE GOETZ Law Office of

1304 West Abram Street
Arlington, Texas 76013

shane@goetzlawtx.com
Local: 817-274-2905
Metro: 817-265-2902
Fax: 817-861-8909
www.shanegoetzlaw.com

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

mima

civil engineering surveying landscape architecture planning
mimatexas.com
817-469-1671

From the President continued from page 3

So, while the laws of nature can be cruel and harsh, nature is also a great healer. The Chinese symbol for crisis is often seen as the linked characters representing danger and opportunity. However, it's often hard to see opportunities while experiencing the dangers of the coronavirus. Take this dangerous time to be more friendly. Check in with old friends to see how they are doing. Say hi and talk to your neighbors when walking for exercise. I have seen and talked to more neighbors in the last week than all last year. While you walk, note the air is cleaner. Help clean the ground by picking up trash along the way. It will make you feel better than just walking and others will probably thank you. Spring offers the opportunity to plant that garden you dreamed about. Just a few plants in any soil you can find and some tender loving care can bring fresh food to your stomach and joy to your heart. If you need garden seeds and plants, ask your ACC gardener friends for some. If you luck out and grow more than you can eat, share with friends and your local homeless shelters. Add a few pollinator plants to your gar-

den and let some food crops flower to bring the bees, butterflies, birds and other critters that will lift your spirits in these trying times.

So, my message for April is to use the opportunities offered by the dangers of the coronavirus to mingle with nature. Use Earth Day and the whole month of April to do everything you can to get closer to your community and the planet while obeying the orders to stay at home and stay six feet apart from others.

I would be remiss to end this message without thanking the first responders, medical personnel, and others on the front line fighting the pandemic and keeping society as safe as possible as the pandemic rolls on. Large numbers are volunteers and many even came out of retirement to help. No one knew modern societies could still be this selfless. Hopefully this pandemic will unite humans worldwide in a realization that we interconnectedly share this small planet and must put aside our differences to unite and make it environmentally safe, beautiful, and sustainable for future generations.

BIRDFEEDER KARMA

John I. Blair

Take care before
You hang a birdfeeder
Imagining how mellow it will seem
To see your feathered friends
Clinging to its sides
Or hopping all around
On the ground beneath.

Unless you aspire to be
Dispassionate, objective,
A self-distancing observer
Of these non-human species,
You will soon discover
You have linked with other lives
And are a part, in no small way,
Of their existence.

And when one winter day
You find small bones, a skull,
A pair of ragged feathers
Half-hid beneath the leaves
Where last summer
Sparrows hotly chirped
And bluejays jeered,
The tiny pain you feel
Is the gift you gave yourself.

©2003 John I. Blair



More Bits

Thanks to Our Last Speaker



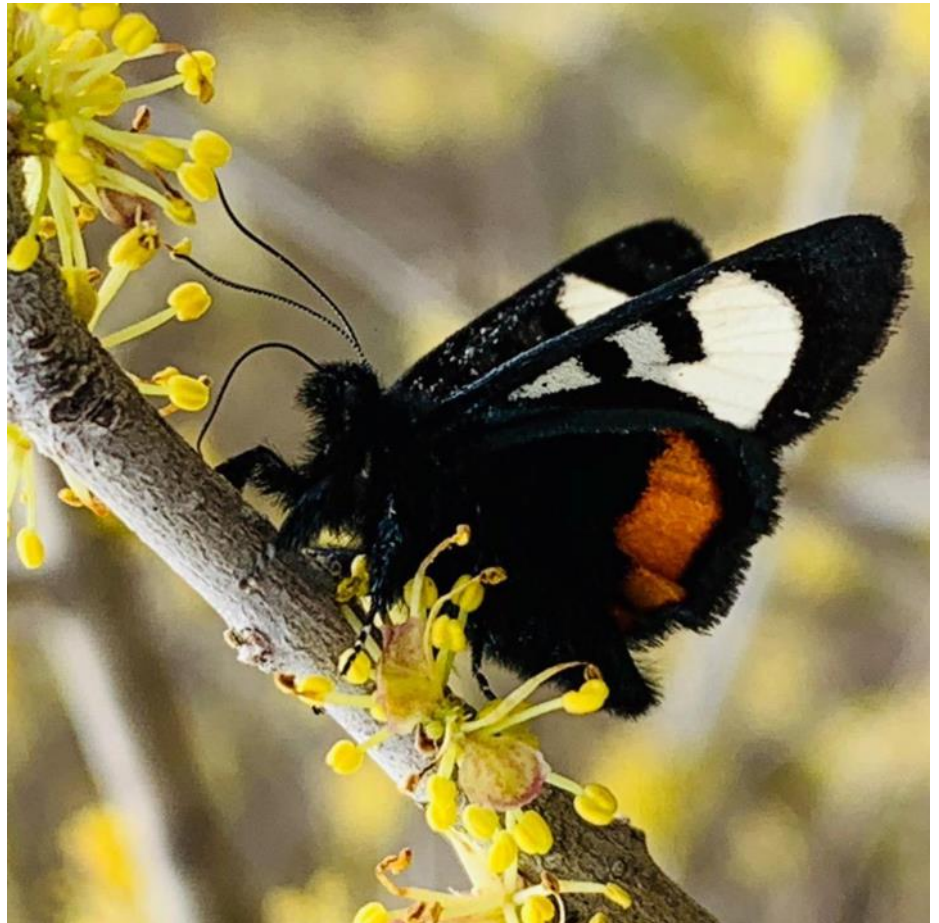
March speaker Charley Amos in a typical pre-virus pose, leading a nature walk at River Legacy Parks

At our last meeting, expert birder, naturalist extraordinaire, and tireless volunteer Charley Amos spoke to us on the importance of being outdoors. Not a tough topic for an ACC audience, but Charley confirmed what we knew, added unfamiliar bits, and did it in his own particular style.

One high point: hearing how Charley has packed his yard with so many native plants that he can experience outdoor benefits simply by walking out the door. Many of us are already on this path, but we can probably do even more.

If you missed the meeting, you can find a lot about this, especially as it relates to human health. Look [here](#) and [here](#) to see a small sample of benefits.

New Moth at Southwest Nature Preserve



On February 22, Don Young found a beautiful moth at Southwest Nature Preserve that's often mistaken for a butterfly. It's a new species for the preserve.

Although its range includes much of the eastern US, the Grapevine Epimenis Moth (*Psychomorpha epimenis*) is the only member of its genus found north of Mexico. *Photo by Don Young.*

**Something new for you
From Arlington Conservation Council**

The Watchdog
watchdog@acctexas.org

**We try hard, but we can't keep up with every environmental thing.
So if you see something we should know about,
send an email message to the watchdog.**

The Arlington Environmental Hall of Fame

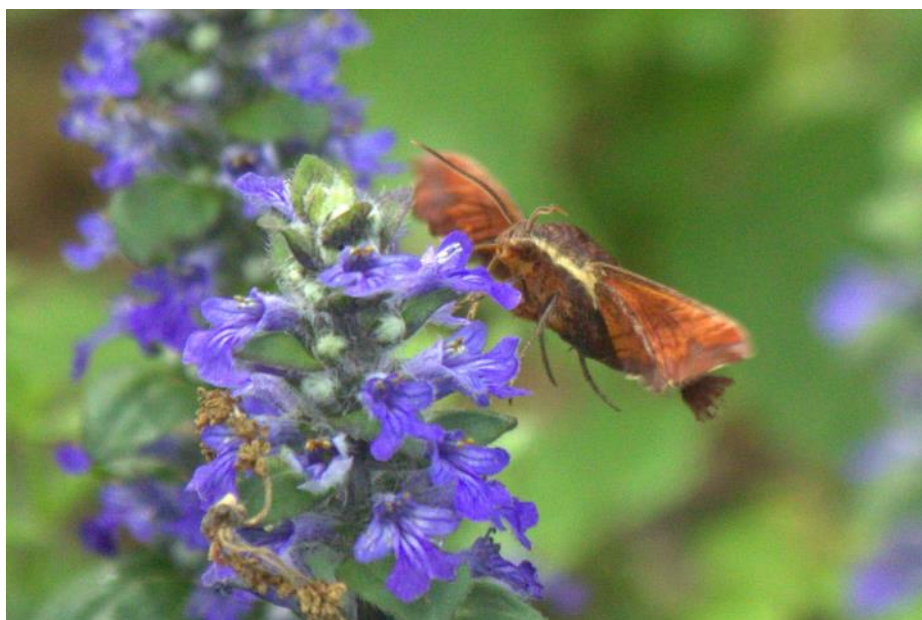
From Dick Schoech: I nominate Hester Schwarzer and her Citizen Forester colleagues Patsy Miller and Wayne Halliburton who sat in the Arlington Parks and Recreation building parking lot handing out bare root trees to the public. From 9 am to 2 pm, Friday to Monday in early March, they handed out 1500 black walnut, blackjack oak, American sycamore, and shortleaf pine. Spending all that time in a bare parking lot next to a noisy street exemplified a true love of trees and the planet. It also showed a love of future generations because those small trees will not show their beauty and benefit for at least 20 years.



On March 26, Candy Halliburton captured this fine moth at home. Not the sort of moth we usually think of — flying in the daytime, feeding on nectar, and looking great. Maybe a Nessus sphinx moth?

I dreamed
I was a bird
Resting on a branch
Watching the cats below
Suspiciously

Michele Cyr



EACH DAY'S A GIFT

Each day's a gift, I tell myself.
My heart knows that I cannot count
Upon tomorrow, or next hour.
It's hard to keep this truth
Clear in my head. But when I do
It makes each moment
Gleam with glory. A Sanskrit text
Says yesterday's a memory
And tomorrow but a dream;
Look to this day. And when I look
I see my wrinkled arm a miracle,
Its workings far beyond my kenning.
I hear the hum and buzz of my tinnitus
As if it were a special bonus
Not given to just everyone.
I smell the musty stink of rotting leaves
Beneath my rose and think
What sweet perfume it is
Of life at work re-making,
Through death to nutrient
To root to branch to fragrant flower.

©2003 John I. Blair



Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

A very mixed bag this month from the park. The bad news: Another post oak has fallen victim to pond erosion. And some good news: The new parking lot at the Miracle Field in Randol Mill Park is almost finished. A few final touches and clear weather will complete the job.



Question Corner continued from page 5

ent wavelengths, so you can increase the variety of species you attract by trying different kinds of lights. White works better than yellow, and short wavelengths (UV, blue, and green) are considered much better than colors on the other end of the spectrum (yellow, orange, red).



One step up, if you find yourself fascinated, is to hang up a white sheet and shine the light of your choice on it. Our ordinary porch light pulled in an Io moth (page 5) and the UV light on the carport sheet attracted a Harvey's prominent. Neither has come to the other light so far.



Also on [iNaturalist](#) you'll find about 500 local moth photos, and if you really start enjoying the diversity and beauty of this huge group, take a look at the [Mothing and Moth-watching](#) Facebook group.

The Arlington Environmental Hall of Shame

Also from Dick: unqualified tree trimmers. "I include gullible homeowners who hire people trolling neighborhoods. Here is part of a butcher job on mature post oaks. The homeowner received a citation for low-hanging branches and thought this would solve the problem. My nomination also includes Arlington Code Compliance Services, which issues citations for low-hanging branches without instructions on tree trimming or warnings about hiring unqualified workers.



Blackland Prairie Preserve Photos by Wes Miller



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

It's a mixed news bag from last month as we adapt to our new reality.

Right, Wildscape volunteers know how to practice social distancing in these times while enjoying the fresh air and exercise!

Try something new in the next few weeks — join the volunteers on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to noon and on the first Saturday of each month.

Photo by Carol Marcotte

Below, The second rain garden isn't planted yet, but the recent heavy rains demonstrate clearly that it's already doing its job. Some hard work here has begun paying off. Photo by Ann Knudsen

continued on page 13



Wildscape Update continued from page 12

Giant leaf-footed bug *Acanthocephalus declivis*. This is the largest member of its family of true bugs that suck juices from plants by injecting enzymes that dissolve tissues to accommodate their liquid-only diet. This big, scary-looking bug doesn't bite people, but like its relatives can produce an offensive chemical, especially when injured.

Leaf-footed bugs get their names from the leaf-like flanges on the hind legs of some species. In the giant leaf-footed bug the flanges differ in males and females. Males use the hind legs to deliver powerful squeezes to other males in battles at feeding and mating sites. Females may do the same to other females and use the tibial flange as an aggressive signaling device.

This insect is in a different group from assassin bugs, which include kissing bugs that can bite people and may transmit disease.



Photo by Ann Knudsen

Underwater walkway: The heavy rains transformed our tiny stream and flooded the stone bridge. It's worth remembering that a mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock an adult off their feet. Most vehicles begin to lose contact with the road in six inches of water. They can be swept away in 12-18 inches of flowing water. Source: https://www.weather.gov/ilx/flood_safety_awareness_week_2

You can also watch a short video of the rushing stream water taken by Carol Marcotte on March 18 here: <https://youtu.be/byQktFu4pg4>

continued on page 14



Wildscape Update continued from page 13

March mini-class

By Carol Marcotte

A handsome crowd of wildscape volunteers gathered at the compost benches for the first Saturday mini-class in anticipation of our guest speaker, Leah Breitenstine, owner of Cowtown Kitchen Witch, LLC.

First, a little background. Leah holds a B.A. from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn. After graduation she attended culinary school at the Natural Gourmet Institute in New York. At age 4 she had announced that she intended to be a chef, which makes sense because her favorite show was *Great Chefs of the West* on PBS.



She has worked as a chef in several natural food restaurants, gaining more expertise and perfecting her passion. Today she's a personal chef and caterer at her Cowtown Kitchen Witch.

Leah served us cucumber violet soup with sumac. Check out her website for recipes and tips at <http://cowtownkitchenwitch.blogspot.com/>.

Leah hit the wildscape on Tuesday before the mini-class Saturday to forage edible wild plants. Volunteers joked that we had just spent the morning pulling those plants as "undesirables."

She made a variety of salads and hors d'oeuvres for us. A few were cooked or further processed, but for the most part she separated the plants into their edible parts and picked them over for quality. Each batch (except the redbud flowers) was rinsed and soaked 2-3 times to remove debris, spun dry in a salad spinner, and stored in sealed glass or plastic containers in a refrigerator. Wild or cultivated, this is the best way to prep most delicate greens.



continued on page 15

Wildscape Update continued from page 14

She was asked about any hazards in eating raw weeds. “This is an important topic I discuss thoroughly in edible plant ID walks for beginners, but here are three tips: Some plants must be cooked before eating, some plants must only be consumed in small amounts, and some edible plants have non-edible parts that must not be consumed. Homework is necessary! And not all edible plants are fit for the table. Be particularly mindful of contamination from water/runoff, high-traffic areas and highly sprayed areas like railroad tracks.”

Books, videos and apps are wonderful resources, but anyone new to foraging should consider attending an edible plant walk for hands-on identification experience, she said. “And of course a big thank you to everyone who came out Saturday. It was a fun group!”

Leah promised to return in the fall with a whole new foraged menu. Look below for more information. You can contact her at LBreitenstine@gmail.com or (817) 343-6224.



Enjoying Edible Wild Plants: March Edition by Leah Breitenstine at the Molly Hollar Wildscape

Chickweed*[^] *Stellaria media*
 Violets* *Viola* sp.
 Shepherd's purse* *Capsella bursa-pastoris*
 Onions/garlic*[^] *Allium* sp.
 Henbit* *Lamium amplexicaule*
 Red deadnettle* *Lamium purpureum*
 Dandelions*[^] *Taraxacum* sp.
 Cleavers* *Galium aparine*
 Dock *Rumex* sp.
 Lettuce *Lactuca* sp.
 Savage cabbage[^] *Rapistrum rugosum*
 Heartleaf nettle *Urtica chamaedryoides*
 Sorrel (woodsorrel)* *Oxalis* sp.
 Yaupon* *Ilex vomitoria*
 Redbud* *Cercis canadensis*
 Dewberry/blackberry* *Rubus* sp.
 Nopales/prickly pear *Opuntia* sp.

*Found in the Molly Hollar Wildscape

[^]Listed on Texasinvasives.org

Resources

Dr Mark “Merriwether” Vorderbruggen
 Book: *Idiot's Guides: Foraging*
 Website: foragingtexas.com

Green Deane
 Website: eattheweeds.com

Adam Haritan
 Website: learnyourland.com
 YouTube channel: Learn Your Land

Pascal Baudar
 Books: *The New Wildcrafted Cuisine: Exploring the Exotic Gastronomy of Local Terroir*, *Wildcrafted Fermentation*

Blanche Cybele Derby
 YouTube channel: Blanche Cybele Derby

“Annie”
 YouTube channel: Haphazard Homestead

Texas product plugs
 Cat Spring catspringtea.com
 Lost Pines lostpinesyaupontea.com
 Capadona Ranch cappadonaranch.com
 Barton Springs Mill bartonspringsmill.com

Southwest Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy, Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP

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

For more information about Southwest Nature Preserve and to sign up for email updates, see www.swnp.org or e-mail info@swnp.org.

COVID-19 and the City Nature Challenge at SWNP

In support of the City Nature Challenge (CNC) 2020, the Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve had planned to host walks on Saturday, April 25. However, as with so many activities planned for April, our plan will change. The iNaturalist team organizing CNC have decided to keep the CNC event scheduled for April 24-27 (Observations) and April 28-May 3 (Identifications) but with significant modifications:

From the [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org) site, "This year's City Nature Challenge is no longer a competition.

We want to embrace the collaborative aspect of the CNC this year and the healing power of nature to allow people to document their local biodiversity in whatever way they can. We have left it up to local organizers if they need to cancel the CNC in their city this year. We support any changes our organizers need to make and hope those that cannot participate this year will join us again in 2021!"

At this time, the Fort Worth-Dallas challenge is on, so we're going to offer some suggestions for those who want to be part of CNC2020.

For those who plan to stay indoors:

- You might be surprised at what you can find in your house. And there's no rule that you can't look through your windows, too.
- Get serious about identifications! In theory, we all have lots of unstructured time, so why not spend some of it on learning to identify the Observations already in iNat plus those added during CNC2020?

How about those who can get outside but want to stay close to home?

- Put up moth lights or put down cover boards.
- Make those weeds into something useful by adding them as iNat Observations.
- And, of course both the plants you want and the weeds are hosts to insects and other creatures.
- Consider taking a walk around your neighborhood. Of course, with social distancing and traffic in mind.

And at SWNP, our plans are not firm yet. We hope to set a time to meet at the preserve, give a pep talk and instructions, then send each individual or family off to search the trails, meadows, and ponds for nature to observe.

No matter which of these activities you choose, the first steps are to get your smartphone ready:

- Download the iNat app from the [AppStore](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/inaturalist/id1446223345) or [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.inaturalist)
- Sign in
- Start taking photos and sharing your observations

We hope you will join the naturalists, citizen scientists, and outdoors enthusiasts during the City Nature Challenge, observing wildlife and posting photos on iNaturalist.

continued on page 17

Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 16

TEDxSMU Excursion to Southwest Nature Preserve

What does it look like to cross a TEDx conference with a field trip to SWNP? Just like this... *(right)*.

This year, SMU hosted its tenth TED (technology, entertainment, design) conference in Dallas, also known as TEDxSMU. On March 6, TEDxSMU added something quite different from the standard talk by offering a variety of excursions across DFW, many of them emphasizing the outdoors.

When Robert Kent, the Texas State Director for The Trust for Public Land (TPL) was asked to organize a field trip to an urban wilderness park in the area, his first thought was to suggest the Southwest Nature Preserve (SWNP). The relationship



between TPL and SWNP started before SWNP existed, with the TPL providing support for the acquisition of the property in 2005. So it was a special treat for the Friends of SWNP to host this group. The visitors included Robert Kent and several others from TPL. They were also joined by

one of the TEDxSMU speakers, Andrés Ruzo, a geothermal scientist and National Geographic Explorer.

Laura Capik was chief organizer and welcomer for the Friends. Activities at the preserve included a brief history of the preserve (there had to be some talking) and a walking tour, both led by Jim Frisinger. Visiting, cold drinks and cookies at the end.

continued on page 18



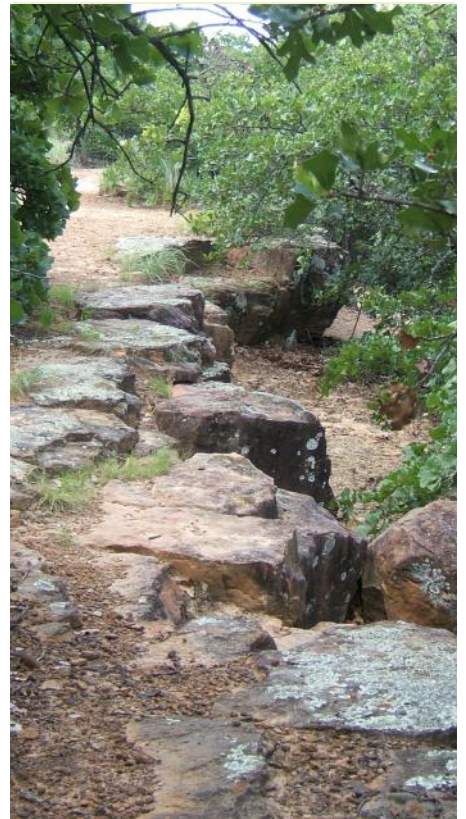
Andrés Ruzo and Robert Kent



Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 17



Andrés Ruzo gave an inspiring talk about how important the local community of volunteers is to the protection of the environment.



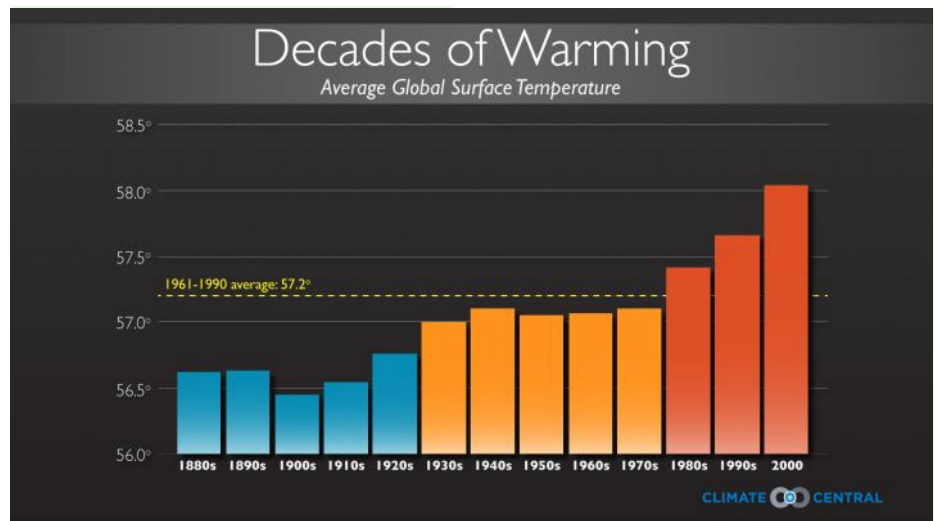
These Friends of SWNP all served as hosts and tour guides: Left to right, Anna-belle Corboy, Jan Miller, Rudy Arnold, Lynn Healy, Laura Capik, Jim Frisinger

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

With a Focus on Environmental Impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic

World Meteorological Organization (United Nations) Report, March 10, 2020: 2019 was the second warmest year in the instrumental record. 2015-2019 are the five warmest years on record, and 2010-2019 the warmest decade on record. Since the 1980s, each successive decade has been warmer than any preceding decade since 1850. We just had the warmest January on record. Winter was unseasonably mild in many parts of the northern hemisphere. Smoke and pollutants from damaging fires in Australia circumnavigated the globe, causing a spike in CO₂ emissions. Reported record temperatures in Antarctica were accompanied by large-scale ice melt and the fracturing of a glacier which will have repercussions for sea level rise. Changes in the global distribution of rainfall have had a major impact on several countries. Together with ocean acidification and deoxygenation, ocean warming can lead to dramatic changes in marine ecosystems. (<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/multi-agency-report-highlights-increasing-signs-and-impacts-of-climate-change>)

With the virus consuming everybody's attention, the climate



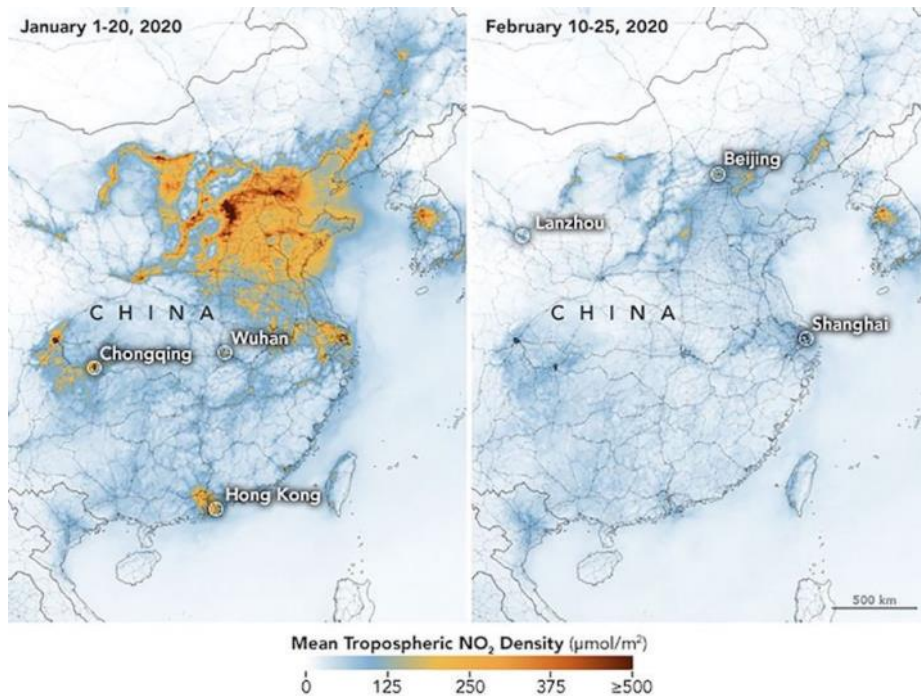
issue has been crowded off the agenda. "It is important that all the attention that needs to be given to fight this disease does not distract us from the need to defeat climate change," **U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** said recently. Although emissions have been reduced with travel curtailed because of the virus, Guterres noted that "we will not fight climate change with a virus. Whilst the disease is expected to be temporary, climate change has been a phenomenon for many years, and will remain with us for decades and require constant action." (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2020/03/11/climate-change-world-way-off-track-dealing-global-warming/5021961002/>)

The New York Times, March 27, 2020: The shutdown of economic activity has led to a drastic

reduction in the use of fossil fuels. In China, measures to contain the virus in February alone caused an estimated 25% drop in carbon emissions — the equivalent of 200 million tons of CO₂ and more than half the annual emissions of Britain. Yes, we could see a sustained drop as economies stagnate and people struggle with the harsh daily realities of a global recession following the pandemic. But there were also dips in emissions during the 2008 financial crisis and the oil shocks of the 1970s, and emissions bounced back as economies recovered. The current crisis is different, to be sure, but after the acute phase passes, industrial production and carbon emissions are likely to ramp back up. And a global recession as a result of coronavirus shutdowns could also slow or stall the shift to clean energy, already stumbling as a

continued on page 20

In Case You Missed It continued from page 19



result of disruptions in the global supply chain (most renewable energy products are made in China). If anything, the short-term positive effects on the climate that we're seeing today serve as a dramatic reminder that changing personal consumption habits will mean very little going forward if we also fail to decarbonize the global economy. U.S. economists have already downgraded their 2020 expectations for the solar, battery and electric-vehicle markets, signaling a slowdown in the clean energy transition when we urgently need to speed it up. The drop in oil prices offers an opportunity for countries around the world to lower or remove subsidies for fossil fuel consumption, which disproportionately line the pockets of wealthy individuals

and corporations with money that could go to education, health care or clean energy projects. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/27/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-climate-change.html>)

Valley Morning Star, March 27, 2020: The human and economic toll of the lockdowns against the coronavirus mounted Thursday as India struggled to feed the multitudes, Italy shut down most of its industry, and a record-shattering 3.3 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits in a single week. As the number of infections worldwide reached a half-million and deaths climbed to about 23,000, the damage to people's livelihoods and their well-

being from the effort to flatten the rising curve started to come into focus. . . . "Our main concern now is food, not the virus," said a rickshaw rider in India, echoing the fears of poor people around the globe.

(<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-effects-of-covid-19-will-ripple-through-food-systems/>)



On Thursday, March 26, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a sweeping suspension of its enforcement of environmental laws, telling companies they would not need to meet environmental standards during the coronavirus outbreak. The temporary policy, for which the EPA has set no end date, would allow any number of industries to skirt environmental laws; the agency says it will not "seek penalties for noncompliance with routine monitoring and reporting obligations."

continued on page 21

In Case You Missed It continued from page 20

([https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/489753-epa-suspends-enforcement-of-environmental-laws-amid-coronavirus?](https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/489753-epa-suspends-enforcement-of-environmental-laws-amid-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR3whr57RvIP3WDiUjXOXzmjoiSkiDvvMkhiEmlj6TaOqx9AY1GRKXDD99E)

[fbclid=IwAR3whr57RvIP3WDiUjXOXzmjoiSkiDvvMkhiEmlj6TaOqx9AY1GRKXDD99E](https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/489753-epa-suspends-enforcement-of-environmental-laws-amid-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR3whr57RvIP3WDiUjXOXzmjoiSkiDvvMkhiEmlj6TaOqx9AY1GRKXDD99E))

In response, Sierra Club's executive director Michael Brune put out this statement: "As the country focuses on protecting public health and safety from COVID-19, Donald Trump and Andrew Wheeler are exploiting this pandemic to make toxic pollution legal." And "to use a public health crisis to justify actions that will result in even greater threats to public health is unconscionable," said Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Action.

(<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/epa-suspends-enforcement-environmental-laws>)

COVID-19 is the disease, SARS-CoV-2 is the virus, (https://www.hopkinsguides.com/hopkins/view/Johns_Hopkins_ABX_Guide/540747/all/Corona-virus_COVID_19_SARS_CoV_2)

with 8 strains now circling the globe ([https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/03/27/scientists-track-coronavirus-strains-](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/03/27/scientists-track-coronavirus-strains-mutation/5080571002/)

[mutation/5080571002/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/03/27/scientists-track-coronavirus-strains-mutation/5080571002/)). In an intriguing article titled "Is Factory Farming to Blame for Coronavirus?," author Laura Spinney traces the origin of the current pandemic from its reservoir in bats through its intermediate host in [possibly] pangolins, to its blossoming in the factory farms of China and thence the world. Case closed then, and President Trump is right to call SARS-CoV-2 the "Chinese virus." Well, no, because if you want to understand why this pandemic happened now and not, say, 20 years ago, you must look at the epidemiology of the disease and the country's history. Starting in the 1990s, as part of its economic transformation, China ramped up its food production systems to industrial scale. One side effect of this was that small-holding farmers were undercut and pushed out of the livestock industry, not only economically but also geographically. As indus-

trial farming concerns took up more and more land, these small-scale farmers were pushed closer to the edge of the forest, where bats and the viruses that infect them lurk. The density and frequency of contacts at that first interface increased, and hence, so did the risk of a spillover. An expanding human population pushing into previously undisturbed ecosystems has contributed to the increasing number of zoonoses – human infections of animal origin – such as Ebola and HIV in recent decades, and behind that phenomenon has been a drastic shift in the way food is produced. Conclusion: Modern models of agribusiness are contributing to the emergence of zoonoses. (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/28/is-factory-farming-to-blame-for-coronavirus>)



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 Jim Domke
 Danny Kocurek
 Mike Kolanko
Student Member Nicholas Kocurek

POST OAK

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

April Meeting Cancelled

We'll see you again
just as soon as it's safe.

Meanwhile, please
take very good care
of yourselves.



Photo by Jim Domke