

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 9

NOVEMBER 2021



BLACKJACK OAK • FORMERLY IN DOWNTOWN ARLINGTON • PHOTO BY GUY RANDOM

November Zoom Meeting Wednesday, Nov. 3

Social time and equipment setup 6:30 p.m. Program begins 7 p.m.
Join the Zoom meeting by clicking this URL <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84654394655>

Getting up to (High) Speed: DFW Corridor Study



Ian Bryant, Project manager

Chris Masters, Deputy project mgr

Israel Crowe, Lead engr/design mgr

Join the Zoom meeting at

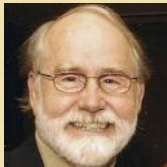
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The DFW High-Speed Transportation Connections Study commissioned by the North Central Texas Council of Governments is an ongoing evaluation of a 30-mile corridor between downtown Dallas and downtown Fort Worth. The study aims to identify potential routes and vehicles, determine locations for terminals and other stations, develop plans for operations and service, compile environmental

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From the President

Dick Schoech

Favorite Trees in My Life

At the request of our renowned Post Oak editor, this month's column details my favorite trees. As a boy, my favorite in summer was the Chinaberry because it produced abundant shiny green marble-sized ammunition for my slingshot. We had plentiful rubber tire tubes, wood, and a jigsaw to build slingshots to terrorize cans, cows, and almost everything else. Our huge old Chinaberry leaned just far enough that with a running start you could climb up the trunk to reach the branches with the berries.

Eventually, my mother stopped the slingshot Chinaberry wars with my brother. It was good that my father did not know the Chinaberry was an invasive species. However, there were many other invasives to fight on our 120-acre farm.

My favorite fall tree was the Pecan. I loved to stuff my pockets full of newly picked pecans and head off on neighborhood hikes or to school. The pecans provided a quick snack during recess. I used to envy a friend who picked pecans in local bottomlands and sold them for spare cash. He always carried a pecan snack if you needed one.

Of course, my favorite winter tree was the Cedar. Our family of six kids packed in the car and headed to the Red River to find the perfect Christmas tree. Landowners didn't mind anyone cutting down a Cedar since they had too many on their land. Never mind that the local Cedars did not make an outstanding Christmas tree because they quickly dropped their needles. Once trimmed with icicles and ornaments, any tree looked great because it signaled that Christmas was coming and presents would soon be under the tree.

My favorite spring tree was the Mulberry. Ours had a three-foot trunk, was several feet from the house, and easy to climb. Whenever we were hungry, which was always, we could climb the tree and eat all the berries we wanted. I remember picking enough berries one day that my mother could bake a pie. She made very good pies, which disappeared quickly.

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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
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Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger

It's time again for pumpkins to meet asphalt.

Why? Because it's fun?

This is beyond food waste.
It's food vandalism.



visit us on the web
www.acctexas.org



Inland sea oats

Don't Blow This Off



You have read it before: Leaf blowers are bad in several ways. Emphasis here has been on destruction of leaf litter habitat crucial for many overwintering invertebrates and their eggs. For much more, [read this](#) by a talented writer who covers a lot without effort in an enjoyable essay on a terrible topic. You will be glad you took the time.

Our Best Cat

Charley Amos recently found this fine bobcat at River Legacy Parks. Do you really need another look at a bobcat? Yes, of course you do. And for a few fun facts about bobcats, [read this](#). You're welcome, and thanks, Charley.



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



Question Corner John Darling

Q: Why do females of some species, such as mantids and spiders, eat the males after mating?

A: At last, a serious question from an actual person. WARNING: Some material in this answer may be considered tasteless, offensive, and in other words, nature. But only if you're upset by something like copulatory suicide.

An introductory note: [one source](#) includes the idea that sexual cannibalism and aggressive behavior in female spiders has been greatly exaggerated. However, this behavior is well documented in many studies, and researchers have developed conflicting hypotheses to try to account for the phenomenon.

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big female
with
tiny male
at
lower left

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From the President continued from page 3

As a UTA professor, my favorite trees were the row of tall Live Oaks along Cooper Street next to the old school (see the 1995 picture). The trees made walking a nice stroll by shielding the hot west summer sun and providing protection from a car splashing experience on a rainy day. Protests, letters, and public hearings to save the trees were to no avail. The trees “had to go” to widen Cooper Street, which is a state highway. A UTA president thought having a state highway running through campus would help UTA grow. It probably did, but it divides the campus with bridges over a noisy thoroughfare to this day.

Students threatened to chain themselves to the old trees to prevent them from being cut, but protest signs were all the students produced. Trying to save these trees was my first experience with how little Arlington values any tree that “prevents progress.” The old school building will probably be demolished soon so UTA can have more progress. Saving old buildings is not in Arlington’s nature.

As a retiree, my favorite trees are the four impressive (150+ years old) Post Oaks at each corner of my house (see picture). Since I live in the oaks section of Arlington in the hills above Interlochen (remember Christmas lights), these trees make me feel that I am not living in the middle of over five million people. The leaves of these four and many others cool my yard 8+ degrees in the summer, then drop their leaves in the winter so the sun can warm the house. They reduce my utility bills, contribute fall leaf color, attract numerous local and migrating birds, drive the squirrels and crows nuts with their acorns, and provide leaves for my compost pile. Mature trees are a wonderful gift.

When I pass on, I hope my ashes are spread under these majestic Post Oaks so I can give a small gift of nourishment to the trees that have given me so much over the last 35 years.



The row of live oaks between Cooper Street and the UTA School of Social Work in 1995



Trees around my home

Question Corner continued from page 5

We could go on for days here, so we'll focus just on spiders. Before we proceed, at least one researcher notes it is likely that sexual cannibalism evolved independently multiple times, and it is maintained in different spiders by different selective forces. That researcher concludes his article with a fascinating note on a species in which the high incidence of mature males of one species found living with immature females may be more widespread than has been recognized.

The simplest idea: size matters. In many cannibalistic species the males are much smaller than the females. The size difference may trigger aggressive predatory behavior unrelated to any aspect of the reproductive sequence. Related to this idea is the economic model: Females are expected to cannibalize males when the male encounter rate is high and the mean food intake rate from other prey is low.

One older source briefly mentions the parental investment model: If a male's sacrifice significantly increases the quality or quantity of his offspring, sexual cannibalism could be an adaptive male strategy, rather than the result of a conflict of interest between the sexes. The author states that many have rejected the paternal investment model but does not elaborate. However, various studies have found that female spiders that consume their mates produce more eggs and more vigorous offspring than those of the same species that do not.

Interesting studies of the redback spider in Australia describe an extreme case of males actively participating in their post-copulatory sacrifice. This seems to lend support to the parental investment model, but only two species are known to be so fatally helpful.

Had enough? Let's end with an easy read that describes a study of orb-weaving spiders. Normally, females of most animal species choose which males will be their reproductive partners. But in these colonial creatures males do the choosing, even though males that mate successfully are always eaten. As you enjoy this well-written piece, consider this quote from the researcher: "Post-copulatory cannibalism ... enforces monogamy in most males." Hard to imagine a better way to enforce monogamy. Next!



November Zoom Program continued from page 2

documentation, and generate preliminary engineering drawings for public information.

For the Nov. 3 ACC Zoom meeting, three principal consultants on the study will update what has been accomplished and what comes next.

Project manager Ian Bryant has extensive expertise in a variety of relevant fields, including long-range regional transit development, needs-assessment corridor studies, and land use, socioeconomic, and indirect impacts analysis.

Deputy project manager Chris Masters, P.E., has over 25 years' experience delivering complex capital programs involving all aspects of transit program management, planning, design, and construction.

Lead engineer and design manager Israel Crowe, P.E., brings more than 20 years of experience in roadway and transit design to the analysis of high-speed transportation alternatives to connect Dallas and Fort Worth with each other and with other planned passenger systems in the state.

WRENS

What is it of wrens, those tiny thugs,
That makes me, lonely, talk to them,
Makes me blurt "hello, how are you?"

They look like animals I'd like to know,
To get acquainted with could I
But penetrate their laser concentration

On picking lunch off window screens.
Their chunky, streamlined bodies,
Built for agility, built for poking

In places I can't even see, inspire
Admiration, respect, but likely
Only because I'm not a bug.

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Lake Arlington Native Garden Biosurvey

Last month's newsletter contained an announcement for a baseline biodiversity survey at the site of a project that will someday be a significant benefit to our threatened pollinators. On Oct. 16, according to the iNaturalist [project page](#), 16 observers recorded 809 observations of 324 species at the undeveloped site. This seems like a remarkable number of species that should only increase as native plants are installed in large numbers.

The initial phase could start soon. It will involve solarizing a big area to kill Bermuda grass, King Ranch bluestem, and a number of other unwanted plant species.

Everyone who is concerned about the pollinator crisis owes a debt to Arlington Water Utilities and Tarrant Regional Water District for coming up with and cooperating on this wonderful project.



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



Jane Goodall, talking about her new *The Book of Hope*, on where her hopefulness comes from despite climate change and the urgent need to protect our planet: “Well, let me back off a bit by saying that if we all lose hope, we're doomed. ... I've met so many people who don't have hope, who say they feel helpless and hopeless. And I say to them, ‘Well, that's because we're always being told think globally, act locally.’ But quite honestly, if you think globally you're just so depressed. I mean, every day we're bombarded with bad news socially, politically, environmentally, but turn it the other way around, something that you feel, ‘I'd like to do something about this.’ And either you or, hopefully, you and some friends get together and start doing something and you find you make a difference. And then you realize that, well, in other parts of the world, people are feeling like you, are doing like you because they are being advised to take local action, and you've made a difference so you want to do more. And that's inspiring other

people. So it's an upward spiral like this, of growing hope with action.” *NPR's Morning Edition*, Oct 18, 2021.



In her article, *Managing for Drought*, author Megan Radke describes the holistic approach to land and wildlife management used by the family who owns the San Pedro Ranch in southwest Texas, a “shining example of generations of conservation know-how and adaptability” and recipient of the 2021 Texas Leopold Conservation Award for private land conservation. An early owner believed that if you worked to improve an area’s natural habitat, an ecosystem would not only produce more wildlife, but would also be conducive to healthier livestock — thus the cattle and wildlife management operations are treated as one. The ranch employs regenerative grazing, prescribed burns, and brush management practices that help increase native plant diversity and growth and aid in water infiltration into the watershed. With sparse grass cover, runoff is

a major problem and the ranch has worked hard to repair riparian function to many creekbeds and to correct longstanding erosion. For instance, a previous caliche pit on the property was hydroseeded with a mix of native grasses and forbs and today is one of the most productive areas on the ranch that also serves as a wintering ground for waterfowl. Lastly, a conservation easement will prohibit fragmentation and will restrict industrial and commercial development on the ranch regardless of ownership. *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, Nov 2021.



As part of its 2021 Brand Audit, the #Break Free From Plastic movement commissioned global beach cleanups by more than 11,000 volunteers in 45 countries to analyze plastic waste. Its ensuing report notes more than 20,000 discarded Coca-Cola branded products were found and claims that the Coca-Cola Company’s [pledge to collect one bottle for every one sold](#) is not having a big impact on its plastic waste. The company is being

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In Case You Missed It continued from page 9

called out for having contributed more plastic pollution globally than the next two companies — PepsiCo and Unilever — combined, which has earned it the “**worst polluter**” title since 2019. *Breakfreefromplastic.org*, Oct. 25, 2021.



“On the cusp of a reuse revolution”: A survey by the Ocean Conservancy found that, due to the pandemic, more than 70% of Americans report ordering takeout or delivery one to three times a week — resulting in hundreds of billions of single-use products, like plastic boxes that often don’t or can’t get recycled, fiber bowls that leach harmful chemicals into the environment, and compostable cups breaking down in landfills and releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Now, more than 130 restaurants in New York city dispatch their food in sturdy green polypropylene containers furnished by [DeliverZero](#), which can be returned, washed, and reused 1,000 times apiece. DeliverZero is one of a growing number of startups trying to take the waste

out of takeout that operate successfully in various cities throughout the U.S. In most arrangements, restaurants pay for reusable boxes at rates competitive with the cost of disposables. They might pass some cost on to the customer in the form of fees or in the price of food. Customers return the rinsed containers to participating restaurants, at drop-boxes, or to the carrier at their next delivery; they’re charged penalties or lose their deposit if they don’t. Return rates tend to be high.

Texas goes to the polls.

During early voting through Oct. 29 and on election day Nov. 2, Texans will be asked to approve eight constitutional amendments, ranging from rodeo being considered a sport for fundraising purposes (Proposition 1) to extending property-tax relief to all service-related deaths, regardless of circumstances (Proposition 8). A survey of endorsements by the editorial boards of some major newspapers and social/environmental groups shows the following *negative* recommendations and their rationale; the rest of the propositions are FOR:

Proposition 3 – AGAINST – goes too far, exempting houses of worship from ANY public safety measures — including occupancy

limits or temporary closures — that may be necessary in a health emergency. The Austin American Statesman, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Houston Chronicle, ProgressTexas.org, San Antonio Express-News; The Dallas Morning News is FOR

Proposition 4 – AGAINST – would make it harder for younger, more diverse candidates to become judges in Texas by strengthening requirements. Progress Texas

Proposition 5 – AGAINST – gives the State Commission on Judicial Conduct authority over judicial candidates. In theory, this could be useful reform, but in practice it would give those in power more control over judicial elections. Progress Texas

Check what’s on your local ballot, your voter status, and where to vote through [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) or [by visiting your county’s website](#).



ACC's Trees Introduction by John Darling

They're not ours, of course. At least that's what I think, that they belong somehow to everyone who enjoys them, now and in the future.

That's on a good day, but on other days when I'm moving like a zombie through churned earth, taking sad photos of bulldozed Post Oaks, I am baffled by how people can see trees as barriers to their idea of progress (and profit).

But that's not this day. It's time now for us to share our trees. My instructions for this exercise were loose, so loose that really any tree, anywhere, for any reason is welcome here.

I will get us started with this Post Oak. I see it every day, and it's more than a big, beautiful tree. It's a reminder that downtown was once a Post Oak woodland filled with life mostly long gone. And despite that species' finicky reputation, this one hangs on against a parking lot, bathed in light each night. And every day that tree's branches evoke a brief, wonderful time when I would creep through acacias and try so hard to spot the local leopard on a certain horizontal branch. I never did, but on dull days now, I'm almost sure I see it between the Subway drive-through and The Man's Shop, blending into those fine branches.

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ACC's Trees continued from page 11

The Bois d'Arc tree has many common names, including Osage Orange, Horse Apple, Hedge Apple, Bow Wood, Bodark, and more. This is the tree that Native Americans, especially the Osage Indians, preferred for their bows and arrows. It was described by French explorers as "bois d'arc," which means bow wood.

Different parts of the tree are used as insect repellent, leather tannin, fence posts, wheel rims, tool handles, home foundations, etc. The list goes on and on, but the old barns and fences built using this wood are so sturdy, practical, and lovely.

Almost all of the names relate to the interesting fruit or strong wood. In the Cross Timbers there are several large specimen trees. Vandergriff Park has a number of large examples along Johnson Creek. That's where I took these pictures. The state champion is located in the city of De Kalb. Its circumference is 267 inches, and it is 62 feet tall with a spread of 88 feet.

This tree is native to the Blackland Prairies. Its presence in Vandergriff Park reminds us that this part of town was once prairie.

References: <https://www.dirtdoctor.com/>, <https://texashomesteader.com/>, <https://ctufc.org/>

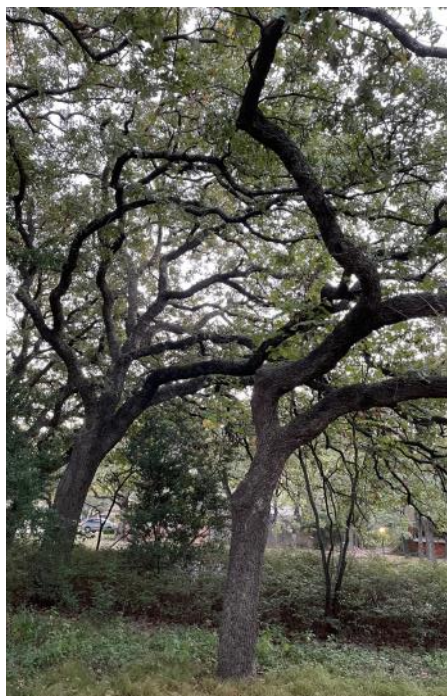
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Bois d'Arc Carol Marcotte



ACC's Trees continued from page 12

Post Oak Marian Hiler



Post Oaks. They mean home to me.

Even with urban growth, they are still a dominant tree in our Cross Timbers. They are the masters throughout my yard. These gnarly old trees have character. They have proven to be tough over the 40 years I've lived with them, surviving drought, ice storms and neighbors who hacked back their generous shading branches in pursuit of St Augustine. I, on the other hand, relish that shade, which cools my home in the hot summers and protects the many creatures that find shelter there. Yes, come autumn, all these sheltering leaves do fall to the ground. But what a richness they add to what lies beneath them.

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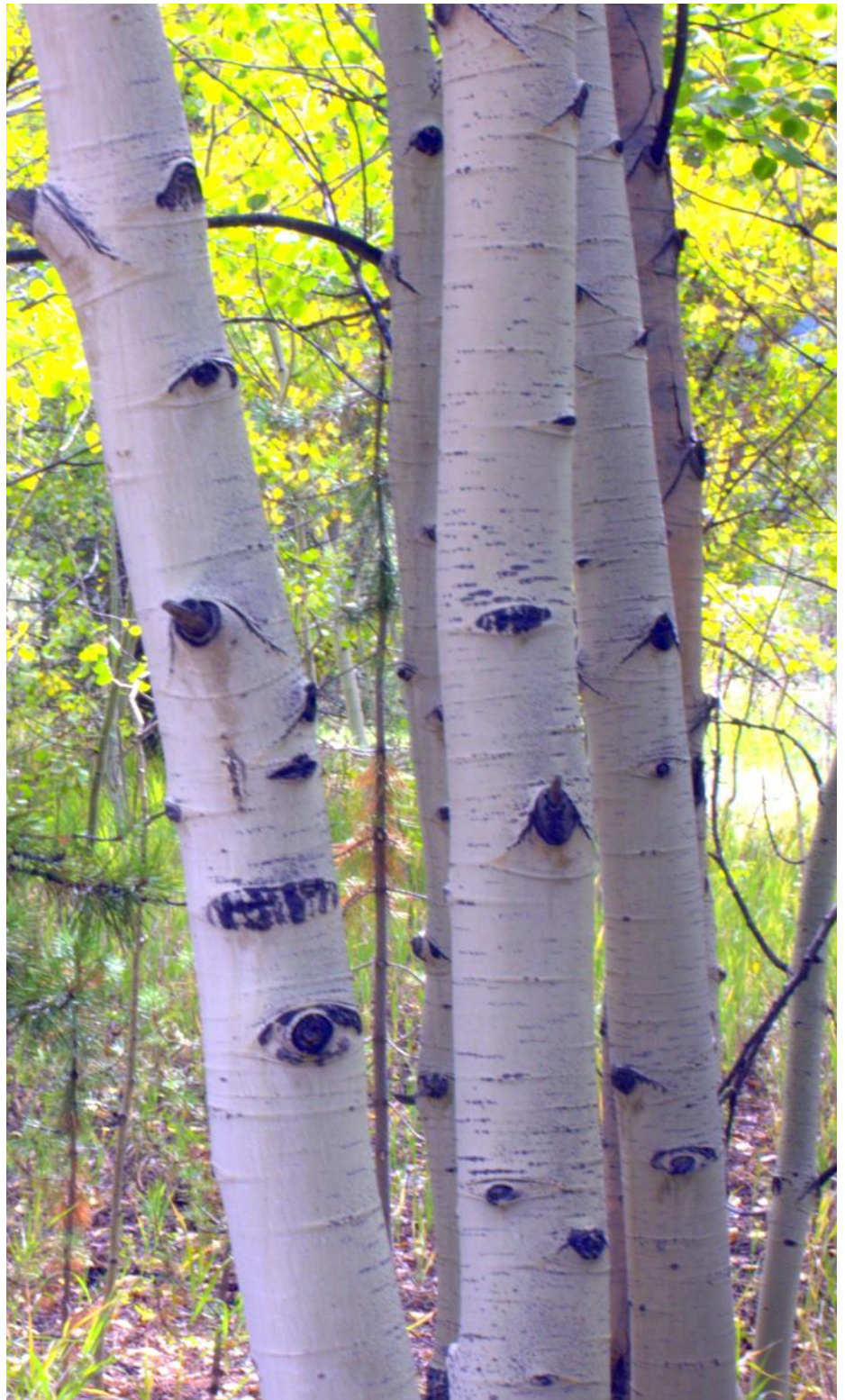


ACC's Trees continued from page 13

My favorite tree, growing up and still visiting Colorado, is the Aspen. I love the white bark, the light green in the spring and the yellow-orange in the fall.

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Quaking Aspen Wayne Halliburton



ACC's Trees continued from page 14

Post Oak Melissa Martin



Post oak (*Quercus stellata*) located on the southeast corner of Jimat and Abram

This beautiful and majestic Post Oak is a sentinel to Arlington's history. Estimated to be 190 years old, the tree pre-dates the incorporation of Arlington in 1884 and was spreading its roots when the area was home to indigenous Native American tribes. Once part of the 215-acre Fielder homestead and now a resident of the Oak Hill neighborhood, the tree has survived an onslaught of urban development. Through the years, roadway and sidewalk construction, utility installations, and heavy equipment parked under the shade of its massive canopy have damaged its shallow, tiny feeder root system. Yet it has persevered and defied the odds, a declaration of its will to live and flourish where it was "planted." For so many who pass by it each day (or are seeing it for the first time), it has become a familiar, steadfast, respected, and inspirational image of wisdom, hope, strength, resilience, and beauty. It is a part of our history and a testament to our future. Our roots are woven together and intertwined. In the words of the great John Muir, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." This beautiful old Post Oak tree has stories to tell, messages to impart. Will we listen and learn? *Text and photo by Melissa Rose Martin.*

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ACC's Trees continued from page 15

Red Buckeye Josephine Keeney



Red Buckeye, *Aesculus pavia* var. *pavia* Hippocastanaceae (Horse-Chestnut Family)

This beautiful tree is a slow grower but very much worth the wait because in time it will reward the patient gardener with unsurpassed beauty.

The shiny leaves are made up of five pointed leaflets and are very large, lending a tropical look to the tree. The flower clusters are 6 to 10 inches long, a beautiful orange-red that can be seen from far away. It is a glorious sight to behold when in bloom and many people will stop and ask, "What plant is that?"

This tree is fond of water and will drop its leaves in summer and go dormant if not given an additional drink now and then.

It likes to grow as an understory tree and if you plant it under a large tree with light shade, such as a pecan or ash, it will remain green until fall when the leaves will turn yellow and drop along with the large seeds or buckeyes. The seeds should be planted right away or they will be difficult to germinate after they dry out.

Red Buckeye is truly beautiful and deserves to be given a very special place in the garden.

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ACC's Trees continued from page 16

Comanche Marker Trees Donna Piercy



A tree can be more than just a tree. Arlington is home to several Comanche marker trees. This picture shows one such tree and several people who contacted the Texas Historic Tree Coalition to check to see if it had been surveyed as a possible specimen.

What is a Comanche marker tree? It is a tree that was altered in some fashion, usually bent with tie ropes when young, by the Comanches as a way of marking important sites or giving directions. One marked place would have been Marrow Bone Springs, which was the site of a natural spring and a good fresh water source. Marker trees may point the direction to ceremonial and burial sites or river crossings. They also served as places to leave messages for others.

After the tree application has been submitted to the coalition, an investigation begins. First and foremost, the age of the tree is determined. The tree must be at least 150 years old and less than 320 years to coincide with the time when the Comanche moved in and through parts of Texas. Several different types of trees were used. A Post Oak is pictured here. Markings on the bark can help identify the original marks of straps used to bend the tree. The topography, pattern of plant and tree growth, climate, geological history, details of nearby creeks and rivers, and many other items are considered by the investigative committee. The final step is taken by members of the Comanche Nation. They decide if the tree is a Comanche Marker Tree. This tree was certified!

To learn more about Texas marker trees visit [TXHTC.org](https://txhtc.org) or read *Comanche Marker Trees of Texas* by Houser, Pelon, and Arterberry.

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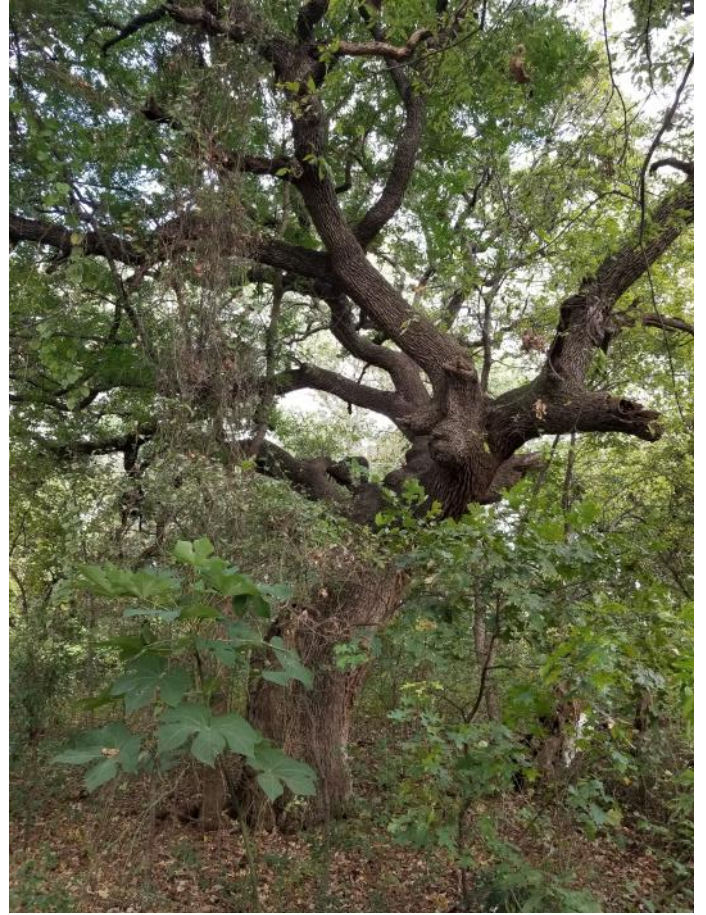
ACC's Trees continued from page 17

The Trees of Mayfield Place Grace Darling

I offer you two trees because I can't decide which one I love better. The beautiful Post Oak on the left, 44" in diameter and a mere five yards from the edge, and the magnificent Pecan flanking the stream on the other side, inspired me to try to stop the developer who vowed to cut the entire 10-acre length of riparian corridor and replace it with a concrete V channel. But the outcome in a developers-rule city was never in doubt: Council approved the project, ownership of the site changed, and its future is in limbo.

So why do you keep fighting these battles you know you'll lose, friends ask. Here's why.

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ACC's Trees continued from page 18

Eve's Necklace Carol Marcotte

This picture was taken in April 2021 at the Fielder Museum. If you've used the parking lot, you've probably walked by it. Josephine Keeney planted it 10 years ago.

The national champion is in Real County, west of Kerrville. It is 37 feet tall with a circumference of 77 inches and a spread of 47 feet. Decorative black seedpods hang on the tree all winter.

From Texas SmartScape: Eve's Necklace is native to North Central Texas, but it has mostly been removed during development. It blooms in the late spring with a fragrant flower somewhat like wisteria. It can grow either tall and slender or short and wide depending on the location it is planted. Branches often weep slightly, lending a delicate texture to the tree in the sun or shade. Eve's Necklace grows naturally as an understory tree among the native Post Oaks and Cedar Elms. It establishes fairly easily, can grow in full sun areas, and is extremely drought tolerant. Eve's Necklace is often confused with Mesquite because of its compound leaves and the interesting bead-like black seedpods that it gets its name from.

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photo by Carol Marcotte



ACC's Trees continued from page 19

Post Oak Carol Marcotte

The Post Oak is the dominant tree in parts of North Central Texas. Our region is a transition from heavily forested areas east of us to grasslands on the west. The Post Oak Savannah ecoregion largely reflects soil type and rainfall levels. Water also affects the character of the savannah, where woodland is often interspersed with grasses in widely varying combinations.

The photos here show extensive growth of mostly smaller Post Oaks in Randol Mill Park.

A 200-year-old Post Oak (*page 21*) at Southwest Nature Preserve has been recognized as a historic tree. It was officially proclaimed the Caddo Oak in 2019.

[Watch the dedication ceremony here.](#)

A good general resource: **<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>**

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ACC's Trees continued from page 20

Trees at the Southwest Nature Preserve Jim Frisinger

Visitors Mary Rosas of Arlington (in green) and Linda Longshore of Fort Worth posed with our Post Oak giants in October. *Right*, The Caddo Oak, at more than 200 years old, is a Texas Historic Tree named to honor the Caddo tribe, which farmed 300 acres in the 1800s along Caddo Creek (now Village Creek) nearby. This oak was alive when the Caddo lived here.

Below left, Post Oak No. 2 is at least 125 years old. *Below right*, Post Oak No. 3 is at least 115 years old. Two other Post Oaks, also in the northeast corner of the preserve, are only partly visible as the hand-clearing prairie restoration process continues. Photos by Jim Frisinger.

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ACC's Trees continued from page 21

At Least It's Home John Darling

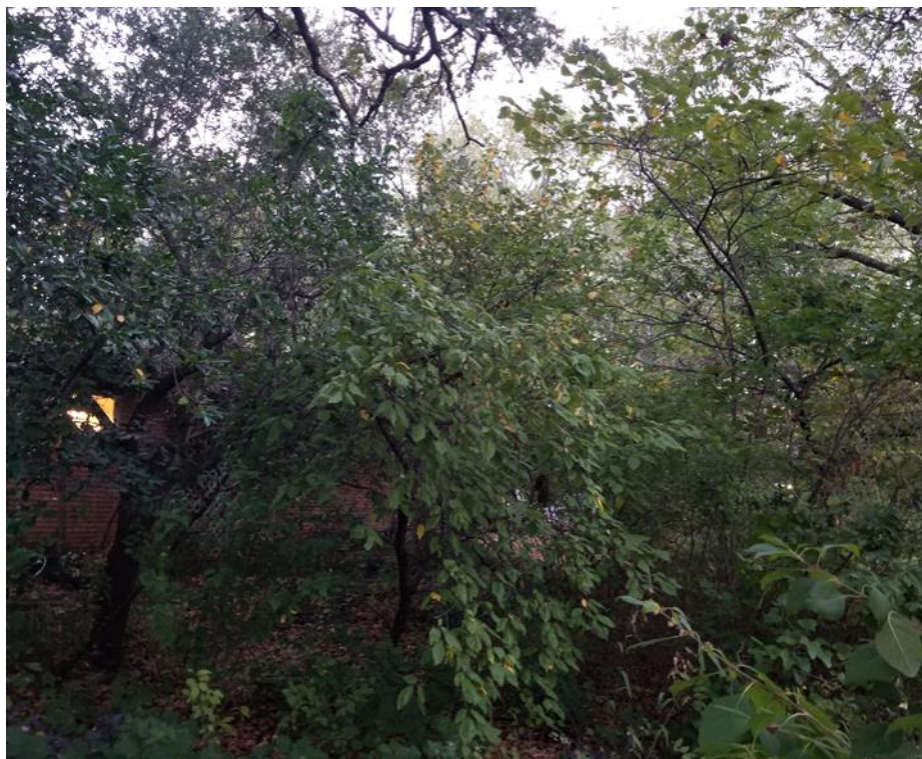
A final note on landscaping with native trees by someone who has been doing that at home since about 1977 without once having a clue.

You know how they always say, "Start with a plan." Well, another approach is to smother your grass and stick in a few things. Then, after you've forgotten what you planted, maybe buy more of the same things by accident, a few new things, and stick them in. Spontaneity, right?

It also helps to live in an area where Code Enforcement has given up. Then after a few decades, you wake up to a mess and think maybe you should have had a plan. It's way too late now, but birds like it, and lizards, too. Even an occasional box turtle.

This newsletter tree exercise prompted me to notice what's here: two Post Oaks, a Live Oak, an old Pecan, and a muddled mix of Mexican Plum, Rough-leaf Dogwood, Cherry Laurel, Redbud, Mexican Buckeye, and a Red Oak and Water Oak that just showed up. And Hackberries, of course.

Thanks very much to everyone who offered their trees to all of us. I love the wonderful variety.



Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

Park & Creek Cleanup

Volunteers gathered with litter bags and grabbers in hand to clean up Randol Mill Park, the pond, and the creek on Saturday, Oct. 16. The event was held in conjunction with the North Texas Community Clean Up Challenge. Arlington Parks and Recreation Department contacted me with event details so members of Neighbors of Randol Mill Park could participate.

Right, cleanup volunteers, from left, Dick Schoech, Carol Marcotte, Wayne Halliburton. Not shown, Candy Halliburton. Below, Carol Marcotte works at the pond.



Blackland Prairie Site Guy Random



It's the big change (below) as the mowers have come early (too early?) for their poor annual imitation of bison or fire. The last flowers now thrive only under the invasive trees that the mowers skirt. Refugia!



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

Golfers will say that if they were ordered to hit a small ball with a small stick into a small hole, they'd find a way to get out of it. So you'd think that if people were asked to show up at a specified time, get on their knees in the dirt to pull weeds, dig up plants to put them a few yards away and drag hoses around to water for hours, they would find excuses to be elsewhere. But when they're invited to volunteer and get rewarded with a T-shirt, they break records for hours of service.

One such shirted volunteer, Carol Marcotte, retired from her paying job, possibly to devote more time to volunteering. The wildscape regulars were so thrilled with her decision that they gave her a party.

Retirees need things to make life easier, and sure enough, Carol received several thoughtful gifts, including a walker with a seat, a foldable cane that will hold up to 250 pounds (in case she puts on weight!), a flower pressing kit to fill her free hours, and a bottle of wine to celebrate the transfer from paid to unpaid work. Thanks to our wonderful hosts, Norma and Joe Martinez, who provided pizza, salads, desserts, and a great patio for gathering.



2021 interns from the Cross Timbers Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists visited the wildscape on Oct 9, 2021.

The wildscape is a prime stop for Master Naturalist urban field trips. Interns are introduced to various sites where they can volunteer to earn their certification hours. A wonderful class of interns recently toured the wildscape, with Ann Knudsen, Carol Marcotte, and Joe Martinez leading the way. Clone those guides! Three new enthusiastic recruits from that trip are now regular volunteers. Welcome, Dana Austin, Patsy Miller, and Teresa Landfield.

Remember, we move a lot of plants around. The other day Bev Crawford was doing the dirty work of moving Cherokee sedge, aided and abetted by Ann

Knudsen, Carol Marcotte, Joe Martinez, Josephine Keeney, Ramona Gratton, Debbie Stilson, Dana Austin, Patsy Miller, and Marylee Thomason — all drawn to the effort just like those golfers.

We moved approximately a ton of well-rooted sedge from the sidewalk flowerbed to places along the northern boundary, to slow the water coming down the hill in heavy rains and speeding erosion. The places the sedges vacated will be filled with flowers, the more to delight wildscape walkers.

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Bev Crawford among the sedges. “Can You Dig It?” By what band? Think before you get out the mirror to read the answer. ehT soirraW

Young people assigned community service to work off their violations undoubtedly would choose to be elsewhere on a lovely Saturday morning, their supervisors included. Sometimes they get the toughest of the drudge jobs. They mulched the entire trail that we’re trying to protect against erosion. One of their number picked up a large, heavy rock like it was nothing, walked it 20 feet to its new location and placed it. Job done without a pry bar or wheelbarrow or three people. Amazing.

“Where do you get all the plants you put in here?” It’s a frequent question. Answer: “We grow



Joe Martinez flanked by community service supervisors.

them in our greenhouse.” Ah, but the devil is in the details. Soil mixing, planting, watering, weeding, protecting from too much cold or heat — it all takes time, knowledge, work, and a certain tinge to the color of your thumb.

Once a year the greenhouse crew get to show off the results of their efforts with a plant sale. Native plants are hard to find, so homeowners look forward to this opportunity to buy healthy, established native plants at reasonable prices. The plant sale benefits the Molly Hollar Wildscape, providing funds for tools and other necessities.

Covid forced a change in the way the one-day sale was run in 2020. Instead of allowing people to



Action at the plant sale

come any time between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., now they must sign up for a slot, limiting the number of shoppers close together. It worked well last year and this. Fewer shoppers allowed knowledgeable workers to discuss gardeners’ needs and help them find the plants on their lists. Net profit this year was \$5,071.69. Only one year was better. We missed at least \$100 in sales because of plants lost in the early spring freeze.

John Darling ducked out on Friday plant sale setup, saying he needed to go open the gate at the composting site for a grass delivery. By way of apology he told Marian Hiler that it wouldn’t matter that he was missing. “You

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can ask Charley how useless I am.” Marian looked him straight in the eye and responded, “Oh, I don’t need to ask him.” John clutched his chest and walked away, saying, “I’m leaving now to go sob alone in my truck.”

Set-up crew included everyone in the group picture plus Dick Schoech and Ramona Gratton.

Special thanks to Josephine and Frank Keeney, who created a beautiful flier of plants available for sale, put out the directional signs, and made the butterfly nectar and host plants pictures and sheets for people to take home detailing the plants that attract each type of butterfly.

Why do we volunteer?
Camaraderie, purposeful work, learning about nature, and emotional and physical health. Spoiler alert. It’s addictive.



Above and right, scenes from the plant sale



The end of another successful plant sale. Seated from left, Carol Marcotte, Marian Hiler, Hester Schwarzer. Standing from left, Jane Oosterhuis, Larry Norris, Joe Martinez, Ann Knudsen, Gailon Hardin, Charley Amos, Marylee Thomason, Frank Keeney, Josephine Keeney, Denise Pederson. Danny Kocurek, absent.



Southwest Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy and Jim Frisinger

Friends of SWNP Events & Programs

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 email info@swnp.org.

Friends meetings, programs and most activities continue to be on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. You will enjoy much more about the preserve when you take a look at the [December newsletter](#).

Eighth Anniversary Program

We celebrate the 8th Anniversary of the newly named Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Saturday, Nov. 6, 2 p.m.

The recent history of the preserve starts in 2005, when The Trust for Public Land, partnering with the City of Arlington, purchased the land from a housing developer. The trust held the land until Arlington voters passed a bond package. It took years of restoration and improvements before the facility opened to the public in 2013 as the Southwest Nature Preserve. We will mark the 8th anniversary of the grand opening with a program at the preserve on Saturday, November 6 at 2 p.m.

Please check the website (www.swnp.org) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofSWNP>) for details as they become available.

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Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 28

Selected September iNaturalist Observations Annabelle Corboy



From left, Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*) – charley, Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*) – outdoorcrazy, Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - jaytee60



From left, Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) – charley, Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*) – outdoorcrazy, Halberd-leaf Rosemallow (*Hibiscus laevis*) - sam_moore_



From left, Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) – joshmols, Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*) - sam_moore_, Marsh Fleabane (*Pluchea odorata*) – outdoorcrazy

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Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 29

Trees at the Southwest Nature Preserve Jim Frisinger

Removing understory woody plants under venerable post oaks is part of the ongoing prairie preservation effort by Friends of the Southwest Nature Preserve. These sentinels were once unencumbered by competition, thanks to browsing bison, and later cattle, and regular prairie fires. Absent these ecological factors, and with the introduction of non-native invasive species, their prairie homes have been overtaken. Asian privet and Chinaberries, and native honey locust and sugar hackberries, are the primary species being removed by volunteers. The 2021 class of Cross Timber Master Naturalists is joining the fight to restore the prairie ecology here on the north side of the preserve.



Left, Tree privets are common here. Some are nearly 30 feet high.

Right, Dustin Reichert, Master Naturalist intern Karen Shuback, and Kim Courtney removing a tree privet in the northeast corner of the preserve. Photos by Jim Frisinger.

Miscellany

MARCH CYPRESS

By [John I. Blair](#)

The cypress, graceful, tall,
Spreads her bare knees
In the March sunshine
To warm them,
To test the breeze.

A grand old dame
Relaxing on the lawn,
Wearing her windblown dress,
Not caring what the rest think,
She has just herself to please.

©2019 John I. Blair, 3/24/2019

What? What?

Have you heard about the possibility of a zip line, treetop walkway, and aerial tunnels system being constructed somewhere in River Legacy Parks?

The River Legacy Foundation may be in the process of considering such a thing. This possible project could involve clearing understory vegetation in one of our best bottomland forests. And who knows what other disturbance will occur?

Do you know about this? Please tell the watchdog@acctexas.org now.

A Different Look at a Cypress

That abnormal swelling on the bald cypress trunk is probably a burl. The exact cause is unknown, but possible causes include bacteria, fungi, insects, wounds, or environmental stress.

Burls do not kill trees. However, they may reduce a tree's vigor while providing huge visual interest.



Mandatory Moth



This month's moth is a beetle. Just a little weevil, but that's about all the information iNaturalist would supply.

It's not here for its striking good looks; we just can't get over the placement of those wonderful antennae.

Liquid Lunch

This Texas fence lizard stopped by for a long drink at the UTA compost site. Maybe it just showed up to catch its breath after losing its tail to a blue jay. But that's all right. It will grow back, and there's no dress code.



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	
Address _____	Individual \$15	New Member ☐
_____	Family \$25	
Phone _____	Supporting \$40	Renewing member ☐
Email _____	Sponsor \$100	
	Lifetime Individual \$250	
	Other \$ _____	

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216. Or pay via PayPal paypal.me/ACCtexas. Contributions and dues are tax-deductible. ACC is a nonprofit, tax-deductable 501(c)(3) organization. If you cannot pay, let any board member know. The newsletter is available via email and the ACC website.

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 Mike Kolanko,
Nicholas Kocurek (student member)

POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216
Arlington, TX 76004-0216

November Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 3, 6:30 pm

Getting up to (High) Speed:
DFW Corridor Study
Ian Bryant, Chris Masters, and Israel Crowe