

ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POST OAK

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 7

JULY – AUGUST 2022



WESTERN IRONWEED AT BLACKLAND PRAIRIE • GUY RANDOM PHOTO

August Zoom Meeting



Volunteering with Parks & Recreation

Montana Williams

Arlington Parks & Recreation Department

7 pm, Wed, Aug 3, 2022

Zoom meeting hosted by
Arlington Conservation Council

More Information at <http://www.acctexas.org/meetings>

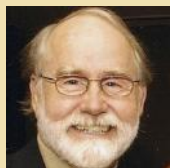
Join recorded Zoom meeting here

<https://megatrans.com/video/acc-2208>

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From the President **Dick Schoech**



Reflections on the Heat

The topic on environmentalists' minds these days has to be the heat and the drought and the fires, especially in Europe. This year's January to June was the 10th driest six-month period in Tarrant County in 128 years.¹ The typical outdoor activities of ACC folks have been frequently shortened or canceled because it is too damned hot. Hell presumably is hotter, and no one would volunteer there.

Worldwide record-setting temperatures and the resulting droughts, wildfires, flooding and hurricanes have a silver lining for environmentalists — they make climate deniers increasingly concerned about the causes. DFW has had several weeks of temperatures either side of 110, with no predicted end except an occasional spotty shower. Often it feels like forecasters add a slim chance of rain to increase viewers and boost advertising. Even some of our heat-tolerant native plants are burning up.

I remember growing up on our un-air-conditioned North Texas farm and the hot, dry summers. The worst was when 100-degree temperatures lasted through the night. The weather dominated conversation when farmers got together. On Sunday we all went to church and prayed for rain. Some even prayed for rain during the week. But no matter how hard all of my friends and I prayed, it didn't seem to make a difference. Severe droughts are enough to make a Christian kid question his faith.

As DFW has grown, the problem has become much worse. We cut down trees to build air-conditioned homes surrounded by concrete or asphalt roads and parking lots. We know how to build buildings that require very little energy, but style and cheap are what sells. Our commercial buildings have expansive flat roofs, but few have rooftop solar. Texans are getting accustomed to daily ozone action days and warnings to conserve energy to prevent rolling blackouts. You'd think the finished sections of our landfill, better known as trash mountain, would be covered with solar panels and possibly windmills to power housing packed into next-door Viridian, but that doesn't seem to be in the cards.

continued on page 9



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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Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



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Southern carpenter bee at desert willow

National Moth Week July 23-31



A grapeleaf skeletonizer moth from Dick Schoech. Dramatic looks and warning colors are just part of the story: It's an introduced species that can be a pest in vineyards and strip the leaves of Virginia creeper. It belongs to a mostly tropical family whose 1,000 members

make hydrogen cyanide for defense and tend to look amazing. Do your eyes need a treat? Click [here](#) and get ready to scroll.

The Water's Fine



Here's Dick Schoech again, with his chickadees and a titmouse enjoying the amenities and a reminder about the crucial importance of water for wildlife during this drought. See [this site](#) for 10 tips on attracting birds with water.

Join us and act locally.
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on the back page.



Question Corner John Darling

Q: Two bird questions. And be serious; you're just not that funny. Why are birds hanging around with their mouths open? Why do birds' knees bend backwards?

Fine. Birds lack sweat glands, but they have amazingly efficient one-way respiratory systems. They can cool themselves by **gular fluttering**. With the mouth open, they move the throat up and down rapidly. Warm air exits without mixing with the relatively cool entering air. Best avian cooling fact: Vultures poop on their legs for evaporative cooling.

Bird knees bend correctly, but they are mostly hidden by belly feathers. What we notice is the ankle, which bends just like ours. Check the limpkin on page 6. Serious enough? Next!



Photo by James Hurt

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An oblique longhorn ignores blistering heat and gathers pollen from a sunflower



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Our August Zoom Program

Volunteering with Parks & Recreation

Montana Williams gave an overview of the Arlington Parks & Rec volunteer program, highlighting key volunteer opportunities, the application process and the department's goals for volunteerism. He also discussed the Keep Arlington Beautiful initiative, its past and plans for renewal.

Montana Williams is an Administrative Professional with 10+ years' experience in Public Horticulture. He has spent the bulk of his career working for various non-profits and two municipalities, creating and maintaining natural spaces as well as connecting his community with the plant world through volunteerism. Montana is an Associate Professional of Human Resources and is most passionate about creating systems that mobilize human capital to better our world for people and wildlife. He has a bachelor's degree in Horticulture and a master's in Business Administration, both from Colorado State University.

We were recently treated to a visit by a limpkin, an essentially tropical wetland bird with a specialized diet and associated anatomical modifications. Thanks to Karen Strzelcki for this fine photo.



Too Dry Photos by Wayne Halliburton

What's our most serious environmental story? It has to be the drought. We're on the way to another record dry spell, and the consequences for local plants and animals of all kinds are increasingly grim. Here are two reminders from Wayne Halliburton. *Above*, the pond at River Legacy Parks. *Below*, a former pond on Green Oaks Boulevard.



We're Doing Something Big



ACC has established an endowment with UTA to aid future environmentalists*

The first \$10,000 will be matched 3 to 1. Donate \$100, and like magic you have given \$400.

**What goes in this spot?
You, thinking of the future,
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Learn more and donate [here](#)

***ACC has created, with UTA, a funding source for student grants and scholarships in support of environmental integrity and climate resilience.**



From the President continued from page 3

Action by leaders is needed. Instead, praying, vacationing in the mountains, and blaming politicians seem the only activities Texans are willing to accept.

Water is a more serious issue, but xeriscaping hasn't caught on. Lush green lawns are a most profitable image. ACC members have rescued beautiful native plants from homes simply because real estate agents told the homeowner that replacing native plants with water-hungry St. Augustine grass would make the home sell faster and for more money.

Humans are creatures of habit and, like mules, often must be hit over the head to get their attention. The heat and drought are hitting us hard this year. Luckily, the impacts of climate change on DFW are lower than in most other parts of the U.S., as Ted Ryan, our February ACC speaker, pointed out. But heat begets drought and drought begets heat, so we're probably in for much worse in the future. Haley Samsel, ACC's October 2020 speaker, warns in her July Fort Worth Report article: "Listen: If you think it's been a hot Texas summer, watch out for what's likely ahead."²

Meanwhile, environmentalists are left trying to make progress on local projects while welcoming the slowly shifting public opinion on climate change, especially among younger generations.³ While research continues to explain why climate change is happening, all we can do besides local projects is advocate for communities to hold lawmakers accountable for long-term solutions rather than simple fixes that only last for the short time politicians stay in office.

Thankfully, ACC members are doers who educate by example. However, we must remember to keep our education and examples out of the disastrous left-right political divide that favors grabbing power over community cooperation. Please keep cool and positive over the last half of the summer, or however long the drought lasts.

References

1 <https://www.drought.gov/states/texas/county/tarrant>

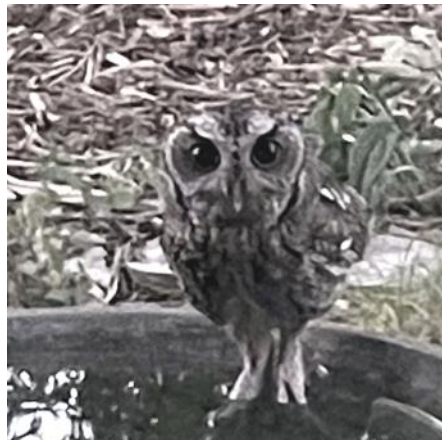
2 https://fortworthreport.org/2022/07/11/listen-if-you-think-its-been-a-hot-texas-summer-watch-out-for-whats-likely-ahead/?utm_source=Fort%20Worth%20Report&utm_campaign=a1d12eb0df-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_06_17_03_58_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c59eaa696c-a1d12eb0df-519050123

3 <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/jul/15/climate-optimism-gen-z>

Beyond the Bits



Photos that need a home, and this is it. *Left*, squirrel eats sunflower buds; needs to cut it out. *Right*, a superior sunflower from Dick Schoech at Randol Mill Park. (Stay away from that squirrel.) *Middle, from left*, eyed paectes moth. Larval host is poison ivy! Screech owls on high alert at Marian Hiler's house. *Bottom, from left*, old t-shirt receives appropriate compost burial. St. Francis supports Carolina wren at Dick Schoech's house.



My Nature Notebook

Icky bug

Bugs are always good. They look gross, and you can stick them in somebody's face when they aren't ready. Or eat one. Anyway, there was this dragonfly I liked because it caught another bug in the air and was eating it. But the creepy old man was there and he said, no, no, no, that's an owlfly and it's ancient and very interesting. And I said it doesn't look anything like an owl and he said never mind, if you like that, you're going to love the babies. They live on the ground and grab bugs with their huge jaws and kill them with poison.

Why don't you go look for one? Now I'm looking and looking. This could be the best bug ever.



Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

Planting erosion plants and trees in the park is a good idea and a lot of work. Keeping the plantings alive until they are established is more work. With this heat, Dick Schoech, Wayne Halliburton, and Carol Marcotte are hauling water to the plants and trees at least once a week. Photos by Carol Marcotte.

Below left and center, Wayne Halliburton. Below right, Dick Schoech.



Thirteen bluebirds have fledged this season from the eleven nest boxes in the park. Two of the boxes were recently relocated by Dick Schoech, Mark Brunner, and Jamie Brunner. Much discussion accompanied the relocations. Photos by Carol Marcotte.

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Below left, Dick Schoech and Mark Brunner. Below right, Dick Schoech, Jamie Brunner, Mark Brunner.



Randol Mill Park continued from page 12

More bluebirds, this time from Candy Halliburton: Wayne Halliburton, Dick Schoech, and I have been the Monday monitors for the bluebird boxes at Randol Mill Park this spring and summer. *Left*, very young nestlings. *Center*, birds just about to fledge. *Right*, a very young bird that fledged not that long ago, and it's way up in the trees, probably calling for food. Nest photos by Dick, others by Candy.

continued on page 14



Left, Mama telling Wayne off after dive bombing him several times while he was checking the box with her babies. (That's my favorite photo, although Dick said I should have gotten the dive bombing instead of just watching and laughing.) *Right*, This male bluebird was checking us out, not too far from one of the nests.



Randol Mill Park continued from page 13

City staff are watering the Pond Triangle Garden at least once a week. It is looking good and attracting lots of pollinators. We had to cancel the June monthly volunteer workday because of the heat. Our next scheduled workday is Thursday, July 28, depending on weather. If you'd like to be added to our volunteer email list, please contact Carol Marcotte at carol@carolmarcotte.com.

Garden scenes: *Top*, bluebird nest box in trailing lantana. *Center from left*, a wasp (*Cerceris bicornuta*?) on Texas lantana, carpenter bee on cowpen daisy, bumble bee on Texas lantana. *Bottom*, American pokeweed.



Already Two Years? John Darling

In the middle of June 2020, people were destroying 60 acres of thick post oak woodland at the corner of SW Green Oaks Boulevard and Pioneer Parkway. They were cutting trees and moving hundreds of tons of earth to create a development whose name oozed irony: Green Oaks Preserve. Nothing can change the loss of that irreplaceable forest, but we can take a look to see what Arlington has gained. We've got a few weeds and acres of bare eroding dirt. The home builder's website now omits the Preserve. Could that be a clue? Is the whole thing as dead as the forest? Hard to know which is worse, an apparently abandoned mess, or a big flock of ticky-tacky houses and the promised wedding chapel.

continued on page 16



Two Years continued from page 15

A variation on this theme is happening now. See the related story on the next page.



Active Adult Center John Darling

In late October, 2020, the city had a town hall presentation on the possibility of changing the location of the Active Adult Center, whose planning had just begun. Council had chosen an area of post oak woodland near the Pierce-Burch Water Treatment Plant (neither of the two top sites recommended by consultants). For several reasons, including demographics and environmental concerns, enough voices were raised to promote a reconsideration of the location. After the town hall, council voted to ignore calls for a site in Vandergriff Park and continue planning for the forested area on Green Oaks, not too far from the recently denuded Preserve at Green Oaks. A vocal proponent for continuing on the post oak path was former councilman Charlie Parker. Some of his town hall remarks are excerpted below. They illustrate why the environmental fight is so hard. And maybe why we should do a better job of teaching kids how to argue logically.

Charlie Parker:

“I am disappointed in this current council in bringing up this subject matter at this time for several reasons.

First, it was stated that the Cross Timber Forest was a concern. In the six years that I was on council, the only time I heard about the Cross Timber Forest was when the MPAC group, a bunch of little old ladies that meet in a church were considering this...

And I’ll tell you why the Cross Timber Forest is not an issue. It’s not an issue because I had an opportunity to go down 303 today and look at the multi-use, purpose project that was on 303 [The Preserve]. Every tree that was in the Cross Timber Forest is gone. They took every one of them. So it wasn’t important to have those trees protected by council, then why is it important to have the Pierce-Burch trees protected?”



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

The heat wave begins.

Volunteers did a lot of watering. Ann Knudsen and Carol Marcotte each came by themselves on different days to do more watering, which kept plants alive between regular Wednesday workdays.

Drip irrigation in the flower beds on both sides of the crossroads walkway is working well. If it proves cost effective, the Parks Department may agree to put drip in additional areas of the wildscape. That would greatly benefit the volunteers, who could then reallocate time to maintenance and making improvements.

When not helping pull tools from the shed or hooking up water hoses, Joe Martinez works to repair the pond. On his own, Joe cleaned out the leaves and rented a pump to clean out the dirty water. When the pump proved too small, he rented a larger one, which worked perfectly. Next he intends to secure a tube to a crack in the rock face so the water will cascade over the rock. The pond has been dormant for several years.

Rick Marquez and a young man who needed to log some community service hours came one Wednesday. Rick had hoped to bring a group every Wednesday in addition to the

First Saturday workdays, but alas, all but the most desperate Texas kids seem averse to hot weather.

Rick and his buddy mulched the butterfly garden trails and around the bench near the compost area. Hot work. Left early. We really appreciate every bit of help they give us.

On one of the Wednesdays when they would have been assigned to rake, no volunteer rakers came. So a delighted Morgan Chivers raked up, bagged and took home the mesquite beans for some super-secret project.

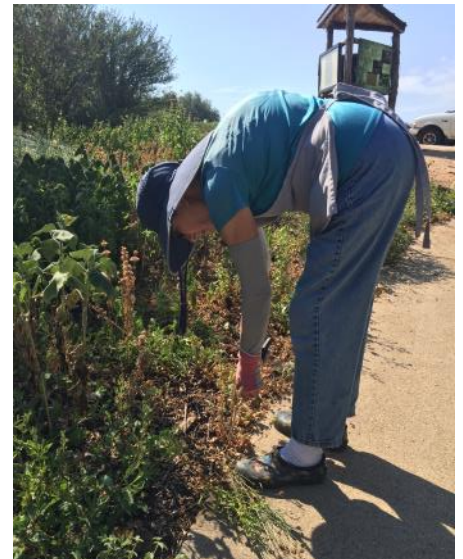
We told him we hoped it would be cookies for the next workday.



While most of the wildscape world was watering, Joe Martinez took time off to celebrate the return of the pond to full function. The sign on his Jeep reads "Gone Fishing".



Jude Dainton is trying to retire. She much prefers toiling in the Wildscape to the comforts of her air conditioned law office.



Jane Oosterhuis shows off her flexibility as she bends to trim dead stems.

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Wildscape Update continued from page 18

So far we have been disappointed. Not in Morgan, of course, but no cookies! (Interested? Find a mesquite bean flour cookie recipe [here](#).)

Twin Oaks is nearly all planted. The last area under the trees has been covered with cardboard and mulch, a practice often called lasagna gardening. The lack of light and air kills the vegetation, then in the spring you have a weed-free zone that can be planted with resilient native plants.

This has been a rescue operation for the two sadly abused post

oaks. Constant mowing too close caused erosion and exposed surface roots. Foot and vehicle traffic compacted the soil and further damaged the roots. Major branches have been trimmed as if the trees were giant hedges, which sets them up for insect invasion and disease.

It is especially important to protect our post oaks, since the population is dwindling in its native habitat. Developers clear an area in preparation for construction. When they're finished, the oaks are not replaced or are replaced with nonnative trees that do not feed

or shelter the native wildlife.

The First Saturday mini-class was Part II of "Arlington's Designated Natural Areas in the Park System and Their Management". The program was presented by Texas Master Naturalists Carrie Donovan (substituting for her husband, Kevin) and Carol Marcotte. They discussed what's involved and how the various friends groups can help each other when dealing with issues they have in common.

And we watered.



Patsy Miller is past president of Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association, co-lead at Fitzgerald Learning Center, and coordinator of community events for Tarrant County Master Gardeners, but she is not too uppity to grab a wheelbarrow and distribute mulch.



It's not "All hands on Deck" these days, it's All hands on Hoses. Ann Knudsen's sister, Marian Hiler, who proofreads the newsletter and keeps the wildscape finances straight, heard the call and came to help.



Rebecca Hill, a local resident who loves gardening, came early, grabbed a hose and watered an entire section before she had to rush off to another job.

Wildscape (and Elsewhere) Extra photos by Ann Knudsen

Top, We grow 'em BIG in the wildscape. Witness the super-sized Texas spiny lizard in a tree, willing to show himself in exchange for a drink. *Middle*, the work of a larval redbud leaffolder moth; common buckeye; young Aztec spur-throated grasshopper. *Bottom*, two-spotted longhorn bees settling down for the night.



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



A recent presentation by Kyle Vyers, City Forester, to the Arlington Organic Garden Club on the **emerald ash borer** (EAB) was both informative and scary. The invasive beetle is a notable threat said to kill an ash tree 2 to 3 years after infestation. Since its first detection in Harris

County in 2016, EAB has been recorded in Tarrant, Dallas, Parker, and Wise counties, among others. Signs of EAB infestation include dead branches near the tops of trees, bark splits exposing S-shaped larval galleries, leafy shoots sprouting from the trunk, and extensive woodpecker activity. Tunnel- or D-shaped holes on the bark (exits for the adult beetles) are diagnostic. Chemical treatment is by systemic insecticide: imidacloprid (homeowners' soil drench) or ACECAP (professionals' trunk drilling) products — all largely ineffective and worse than the disease

because they poison every part of the tree and all the creatures that feed on it. Best remedy is to cut down the infected tree and burn the wood on site.

Remember **asbestos**? You might be surprised to learn it's still around. Here's a brief refresher: **1924** - first cases of asbestos-related illnesses are recorded in England

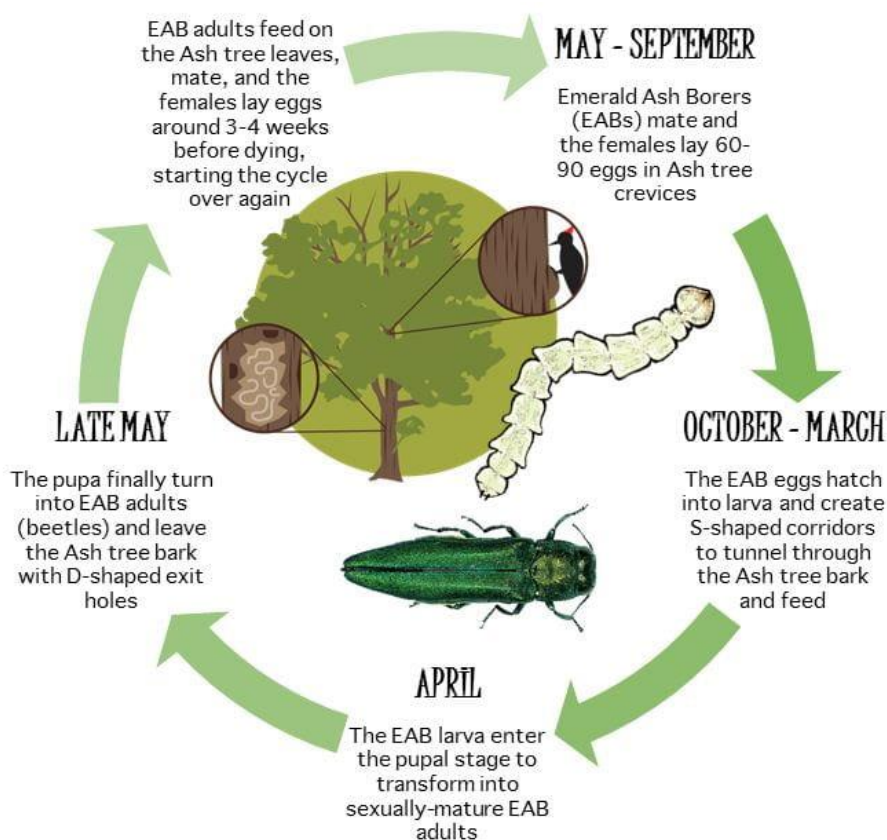
1940s - use of asbestos for building insulation, brake shoes and clutches for cars, adhesives, garden supplies, kitty litter, etc. exploded in popularity after World War II because the fiber is cheap and has fire-retardant properties.

mid-1950s - a strong link is found between asbestos and lung cancer.

1960s - **mesothelioma**, the most commonly known asbestos-related cancer, is discovered.

1973, 1975, 1977, 1978 - most uses of asbestos for insulation and flame-resistance in the construction industry are banned by the EPA.

1989 - EPA issues a final rule banning the manufacture, importation, processing, and distribution of some asbestos-containing products under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Industry sues and enforcement of the ruling is put on hold.



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In Case continued from page 21

1991 - the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturns the 1989 ban except for products created for the first time after 1989.

2019 - EPA issues a final rule to ensure that discontinued asbestos products cannot be reintroduced into commerce without the agency evaluating them. The vast majority of asbestos-containing products are effectively removed or phased out from the U.S. market.

December 2020 - an EPA study finds unreasonable risks to human health from all uses of chrysotile asbestos.

April 2022 - EPA proposes a **Ban of Ongoing Uses of Asbestos.**

Today, chrysotile asbestos diaphragms are used by about one-third of U.S. chlor-alkali manufacturing plants to produce chlorine, widely used to treat wastewater, and the chemical industry claims that, “if enacted, EPA’s proposed rule would have significant adverse effects on the nation’s drinking water supply.” It should be noted that microfiltration and ultrafiltration membrane alternatives to asbestos diaphragms are used by most chlorine manufacturers today as they have had years to get ready for such a ban.

The public comment period was extended to July 13. “Nearly 70 other countries have already

enacted bans on this deadly carcinogen, yet the U.S. has yet to do the same despite the overwhelming evidence that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos,” reports [U.S. Public Interest Research Group](#).

Introducing Arlington’s **Tool Sharing Program**. A neighbor borrowed a power washer, used it on her house, and is so pleased with the result she’ll come and do yours next (just kidding). Find everything you need to know [here](#).

The good ladies and honorable men who volunteer at the Randol Mill Park **greenhouses** are seeking financial assistance from granting sources to repair the roof holes, reinforce/replace the rusty steel support in one corner,

and plug the many leaks in the swamp cooler system that lead to indoor algal blooms. Much of the damage occurred during a 2019 hailstorm, and since that time the volunteers haven’t been able to use the facilities during cold weather. If you haven’t visited, this is where these hard-working folk grow and propagate plants that are used throughout the city’s parks and other public areas — a huge contribution to their community and significant savings of taxpayers’ money. Please stay tuned for ways you can help with the greenhouse rebuilding project at ACC’s discussion page on Facebook and other social media.

Below, Algae flourish in a damaged corner of a Randol Mill Park greenhouse.



Blackland Prairie Site Guy Random



Okay, it's drought. But even now, hidden among the crisp remnants, we find tiny optimists, plantlings growing toward a less brutal fall. And many early bloomers have produced seeds beyond number.



Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

Upcoming Programs Hosted by Friends of SCNP

Tuesday, August 16, 7 p.m., via Zoom: Spiders of SCNP



Meghan Cassidy will present basic information about spiders and other arachnids, including harvestmen, scorpions, ticks, and a few others — most of which are misunderstood, and all often feared. The program will include basic taxonomy, ecology, natural history, and common families. Meghan will discuss spiders found in Texas prairies and associated plants, especially those at SCNP. She will also offer some strategies for identifying spiders. Meghan has many detailed spider photos to show, and she will provide some tips for using iNaturalist as a learning resource for spiders!

See below for her bio, since she will be leading a walk at the preserve a couple of weeks later.

Saturday, August 27, 7 p.m., at SCNP: Bats of the Area and How to Find Them



Local bat enthusiasts Ellen Ravkind and Anne Alderfer, with bat expert Kate Rugroden from the Bat World Sanctuary will provide our program at the amphitheater overlooking the south pond. Kate can talk about the bats in this area and the role the sanctuary plays in education and rehabilitation. Ellen and Anne will demonstrate the echolocation devices from Wildlife Acoustics (Echo Meter Touch 2).

We will meet in the amphitheater. Bring bug spray and water, and a good flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries for getting back to the parking lot at the end of the evening.

Kate Rugroden is Director of Special Projects for the Bat World Sanctuary and is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator specializing in bats, raccoons, and opossums. Dr. Ellen Ravkind is the Naturalist Manager/ Environmental Educator at River Legacy Foundation/River Legacy Living Science Center. Anne Alderfer is a part time Naturalist at River Legacy Park and a Master Naturalist.

TENTATIVE Date: Saturday, September 3, 7:30 p.m., at SCNP: An Evening at SCNP, Looking for Arachnids

Meghan Cassidy will lead us on a spider walk focusing on the types of spiders commonly found at SCNP. Meghan will cover high level information about the natural history of some of these spiders, why spiders are ecologically important (and not scary!), cover the 2 types of medically significant spiders that can be found in Texas along with precautions, as well as handing out an informational pamphlet she has created,

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Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 24



including photos of spiders from SCNP! As we walk around, we'll encounter other invertebrates (such as insects), so Meghan will give some impromptu information on any insects we come across as well.

Meghan is a photographer and arachnology enthusiast living in the DFW area. Originally from the east coast, she relocated to Texas 10 years ago and began studying Texas' invertebrates in her free time, with a special focus on arachnids and arachnid diversity.

We will meet in the amphitheater that overlooks the south pond. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, maybe bring bug spray and water, and especially a good flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries. The walk back will be in the dark, so a good light will be essential.

SCNP iNaturalist Observations and Species – June 2022

June's totals: 107 Observations with 62 Species. And this month our 5 Star Observer was Bret Franklin (brentano) with 41 Observations.

The photo below of a scarlet spiderling was taken in the North Prairie restoration site. It seems to be the first of its species recorded for the preserve on iNaturalist. The bloom cluster shown is tiny, much smaller than a dime. It is a volunteer and not part of the seeds planted there.

continued on page 26



Scarlet Spiderling (*Boerhavia coccinea*) - joshmols, Sulphur-tipped Clubtail (*Phanogomphus militaris*) – brentano, Halberd-leaf Rosemallow (*Hibiscus laevis*) - brentano

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 25**SCNP iNaturalist Observations and Species – June 2022**

Swift Setwing (*Dythemis velox*) - galactic_bug_man, Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – brentano, Four-striped Leaftail (*Phyllogomphoides stigmatus*) – brentano



Spotted Horse Mint (*Monarda punctata*) – ccasner, Halloween Pennant (*Celithemis eponina*) - jaytee60, Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*) – consobrinusconnoisseur



Poetry and More

URBAN COYOTE

Peering out my kitchen window
Late at night
As I often do in hope of
Possums, raccoons, even armadillos
Or at the very least
A random feral feline
In search of kibble,

Suddenly I dimly see
Looming in dark shadows
A troubling torso
That's unmistakable
(Though I hope I am mistaken).

On the corner of the patio,
Come perhaps to drink
At the water bowl I keep there,
A dog-like shape that may not be a dog.

After years of hiding in the countryside
Coyotes now have come into the city,
Drawn by food, by shelter,
By easy pickings for the taking,
Sometimes in the guise of garbage,
Sometimes cats, sometimes puppies,
Even children left unguarded.

They're not called prairie wolves on whim.

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7/16/2022

Things the staff rejected: *above*, exhausted milkweed that might have been a dramatic cover. *Below*, tufted bird-dropping moth. Because we all need more bird-dropping moths.



Yard Birds John Darling

“If you’re so bored, go outside and play in the yard.” Sure, never mind that it’s like noon on Mercury. But okay, let’s fool with the trail camera for about two weeks. Biggest diurnal surprise: brown thrashers visit most by far. Other surprises include one downy woodpecker but no chickadees, titmice, or mockingbirds.

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Yard Birds continued from page 28

The night shift surprise was the high number of visits by screech owls, sometimes three or four per night, usually beginning around 9 p.m. Only a couple of cats and opossums but no raccoons, box turtles, or snakes. We have had box turtles over the years, and there was a squashed rat snake in the gutter out front a few weeks ago. Stay out of the street. Please.



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	
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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 or credit card here: paypal.me/ACCtexas. 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 newsletter is available via email and the ACC website.

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POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216
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August Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, August 3, 7 pm

Volunteering with Parks & Recreation
Montana Williams