

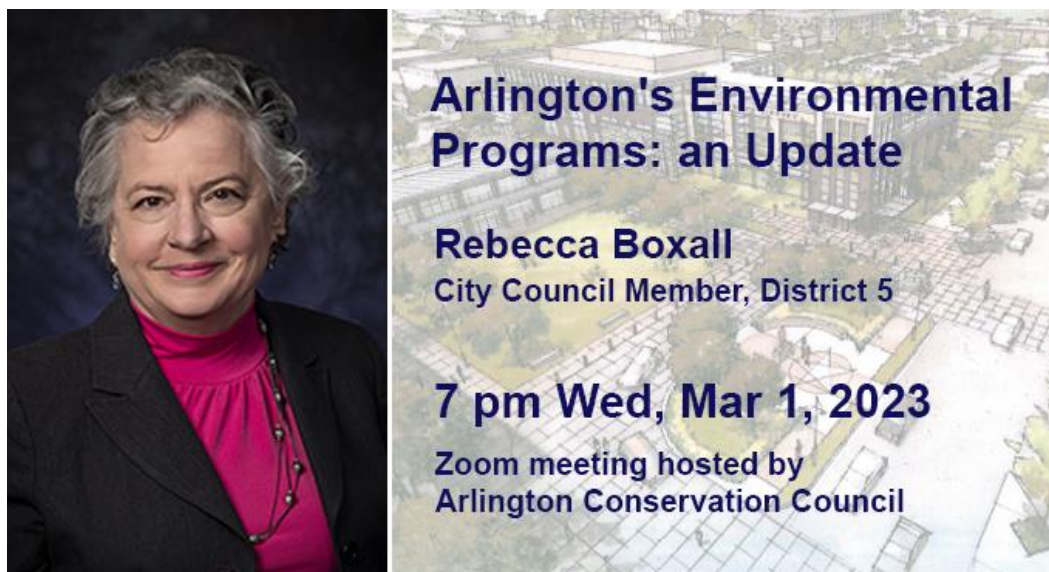
**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

**VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2
MARCH 2023**

BLACKLAND PRAIRIE PRESERVE • GUY RANDOM PHOTO

March Zoom Meeting



Read more about this program on page 5

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82448259326>

For assistance accessing the meeting, contact Frank Keeney,
webmaster@acctexas.org

6:30 p.m. social time and equipment check, 7 p.m. presentation

Contents

- 3 From the President
- 5 March Speaker, Volunteer of the Month
- 7 Question Corner
- 8 Go Ape Apology & Facts
- 9 Endowment
- 10 My Nature Notebook
- 11 In Case You Missed It
- 13 Heritage Trees in Arlington?
- 15 Molly Hollar Wildscape Update
- 20 Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve
- 24 Blackland Prairie Preserve

From the President **Dick Schoech**



It's Just a Tease: Enjoy the Texas Spring Weather

Texas weather challenges us physically and emotionally. Summers can be brutally hot and dry for even the most avid naturalist. Winters can have short periods of bone-chilling cold that penetrates the warmest clothing. Arlington residents are rewarded with fall and spring weather that provides beautiful days when being outside in nature is simply glorious.

continued on page 4



Cedar waxwings eating yaupon holly berries



ACC POST OAK

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

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

From the President continued from page 3



Early buttercup, Ranunculus fascicularis, Texas native, Goat Island 18feb23

All of nature, including the most apathetic humans, are inspired by spring. Flocks of robins and cedar waxwings eagerly strip berries from our trees and shrubs. Squirrels chase each other through the trees for mating or just pure fun. Male cardinals woo potential mates by feeding a female seeds as if she were incapable of getting seeds herself. Male and female wrens busily build nests in places we least expect. This exuberance of spring stops periodically when arctic winds and blazing sun return.

You can join in nature's spring dance. Watch daffodils drooping under winter snow burst out to show their colors. Enjoy golden groundsel and spiderworts as they flower almost overnight.



Wren hurrying to find food for hungry babies in a designer ceramic nest box

The rebirth released by spring especially inspires young critters eager to explore their world. Baby chickadees will check out everything, even people. They hop around looking under tables and in unused flower pots, curiously taking everything in their (erroneously described) little bird brains. They are especially inquisitive about humans, as well they should be, since we control enough of the world that our actions are determining the future of many species.

Get out and absorb nature. Allow these beautiful spring days to engulf your life. Get your hands in dirt by planting a native flower you can watch grow. The world will be better off if we allow the beauty and excitement of spring to overwhelm us.

Squirrel smacking a rabbit trying to grab some food. D. Schoech photo.



Our March Speaker

Rebecca Boxall will offer an overview of environmental progress and plans from a City Council member's perspective. She was elected in District 5 in 2021. She also represents the council on the Downtown Arlington Management Corp. Board of Directors. As an architect, she's always interested in a building's design and function, and likely she would entertain questions in this arena as well.

She has served on numerous local committees and community groups, including Planning and Zoning, the Zoning Board of Appeals, Keep Arlington Beautiful, and the Heart of Arlington Neighborhood Association.

A Texas native and an Arlington resident since 2007, she holds a bachelor's degree in architecture from Texas Tech. She has worked in private practice for over 30 years.

Concerning the much-ballyhooed Lincoln Square redevelopment, she says that tighter enclosure ratios between buildings will make it more walkable. She also favors "layering of heights and view planes, programmable green spaces, coherent site circulation," 2-5 stories, with office and hotel along I-30. "I hope for roof terraces! Parking drives site design, but they came up with ways to make that less so. I'm provisionally excited."

Parks & Rec Volunteer of the Month: Josephine!

From Montana Williams, Arlington Parks & Recreation Dept:

We would like to announce that **Josephine Keeney** has been selected as our **Volunteer of the Month** for **February**! Here's a condensed version of an anonymous voter's nomination:

"Josephine spends her life volunteering in Arlington's parks, especially in the natural areas. She established pollinator gardens in Randol Mill Park, O.S. Gray Natural Area, River Legacy Park, the Wildscape and several more . . . When she is not working with one of her crews of volunteers, she is watering in the greenhouse, checking on which gardens to attend to next, and many other chores associated with all the things she does for Arlington's natural areas . . . She is an inspiring example of how to make retirement the best and most productive time of your life. She is definitely worthy of the honor of Volunteer of the Month and even the year."



Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



It's an almost cold February day, and there's a honeybee working on a dandelion.

Honey for nothin' and dandelions for free.

Let's quit weeding.

Visit ACC's
Facebook page
and
Arlington
Conservation
Council
Discussion Group

The Big Picture



Thinking about the statewide environmental picture? If you want a great mix of aspiration and down-to-earth detail, you should see the legislative agenda at the [Environment Texas site](#). And don't forget Rita Beving's work for [Public Citizen](#).



How quickly things change. An icy cherry laurel on Feb. 2

Privet Progress



Wonderful news recently about privet removal at Tandy Hills Natural Area: A \$150,000 grant to Fort Worth from the North Texas Community Foundation will be used for a large-scale mechanical and chemical assault on the hellish weed. Learn more at this [Green Source DFW article](#).

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



Question Corner John Darling

Q: Listen, your answer last month on recycling was the worst yet. Let's see if you can redeem yourself: What are these things? They were all over my driveway and kind of squishy and maybe powdery, too.

A: Good answer? You can't handle a good answer, but here goes: They're obviously microsporangia from some conifer that sneaked into our ecoregion. You want details and maybe some comprehension? Just review this vocabulary list and get back to me: sporophyte, gametophyte, sporocyte, meiosis, microspore, micropyle, ovule, sporangium, megaspore, archegonium, pollen tube, ovules, zygote, suspensors, cotyledons, and pedicellated carbuncles. If you need help from some pretty diagrams, study [this site](#), then call me when you're ready. Next!



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Will that greenbriar survive its icy coating? Of course it will.



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On a
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Go Ape in Arlington: Apology and Corrections John Darling

Last month, James Orloski, Director of Parks and Recreation, read my attack on the treetop adventure structures now being installed at River Legacy East. He sent me a number of corrections, and I am reprinting them below. In almost 23 years of editing this newsletter I haven't felt the need to apologize for anything I have written. Now I'm sorry. I should have tried to get the facts before reacting to something that offends me. I know it's not my forest; people will enjoy it in ways I might hate, but that doesn't make them wrong. Feeling but not thinking, I didn't get my story right, and I hope to do better. One more thing: In the middle of the night, desperate to fill a last-minute newsletter space or just plain mad, I write without consulting anyone. The views expressed are only mine.

Here are James Orloski's comments:

I respect your opinion, and am not trying to persuade you of anything, but I want you to have the facts.

Construction was done in a way as to minimize any lasting impacts on the trees. No bolts were used to secure the platforms to the trees. Instead, the platforms are secured with clamps that wrap around the tree, which is protected by a wooden post surrounding the trunk of the tree. They are evaluated on a regular basis to determine if any adjustment is needed to accommodate the natural growth of the tree.

The trees will be inspected on a regular basis, by our own internal certified arborists, of which we have two, and by an independent specialist. All trees used in the course will also be inspected annually by a third-party ISA-certified arborist with a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification. Go Ape will follow the recommendations of the arborist for safety and for the health of the trees.

Significant time was spent discussing the possible environmental impact of the project. I wasn't here at the time, but I know staff reached out to multiple other cities that host Go Ape facilities. In those conversations, we heard positive feedback about Go Ape's environmental stewardship and the limited environmental impact of their facilities.

Not that it matters to the environmental discussion, but since you brought up what the city is receiving in return, the agreement with Go Ape was done in a thoughtful way that provides considerable public benefit, including a revenue-sharing arrangement that will benefit Arlington parks and give our camp participants around the city the opportunity to experience this new amenity, and be introduced to River Legacy.

That's what I see as the benefit of Go Ape. Offering a new and unique way to experience the natural beauty of River Legacy, but doing it in a way that minimizes the impact to the trees and wildlife in the park is important to us, as you can see. Ultimately, we can disagree about the worthiness of the project, but again, I wanted to share the facts and my perspective.

We're Doing Something Big



ACC has established an endowment with UTA to aid future environmentalists. It's already helping.*



Donate [Here](#)

*The first endowment scholarship has been awarded to a UTA sophomore. It gave him the opportunity to research Vehicle to Grid (V2G) technology, a smart-charging technology allowing car batteries to give back to the power grid. You can watch his presentation [here](#).

My Nature Notebook

DOG VOMIT! DOG VOMIT! DOG VOMIT!

So they put me out again for being bad again and it was boring but then I found the creepy old man looking at something that was cool and gross all



at once. But that was nothing compared to the name. He said you're really going to like this, but I'll only tell you if you promise to go away and leave me alone. So I fibbed and said okay and he said that's a dog vomit slime mold, and it might be smarter than you are. And I said I don't care, that's the best name ever. I love nature so much!

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

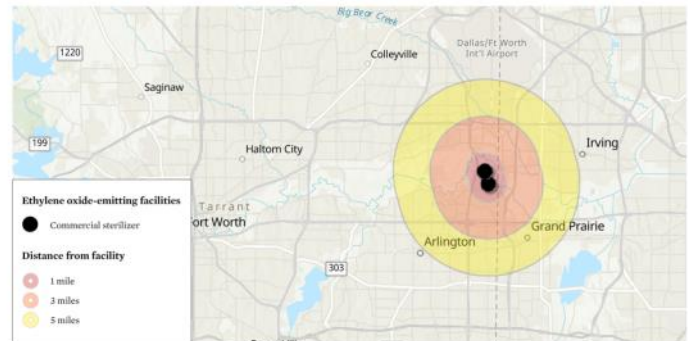


Monk parakeets invade Houston. Nobody is sure when they came over from South America, but they have adopted Texas as their new home. Depending on who you ask, the birds are either an invasive pest that “can wreak havoc in both urban and rural environments due to the large numbers in flocks, . . . [where] they could decimate local park flora and woodland as well as agricultural arable land . . . [and] can also nest in the fabric of buildings, causing significant damage to properties.” Or, if you are more kindly inclined, “the main conflict associated with monk parakeets in the U.S. is their impact on electric utility facilities due to the birds' nest-building behavior and their habit of constructing nests on electric utility substations, distribution poles, and transmission line towers.” So, next time your power goes out, blame it on the birds. [From the Houston Chronicle, Feb. 16 2023. No link to the article because the site won't let you in if you're not a subscriber.]

But of course, they are mentioned here because it's not just Houston that claims/boasts monk parakeets: They are here in our own backyards. [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/MonkParakeetsOfDFW/)

[MonkParakeetsOfDFW/; Sherry Street Substation, Arlington \(Monk Parakeet loc\), Tarrant County, TX, US - eBird Hotspot](#)

Commercial Sterilizers in Grand Prairie, Texas



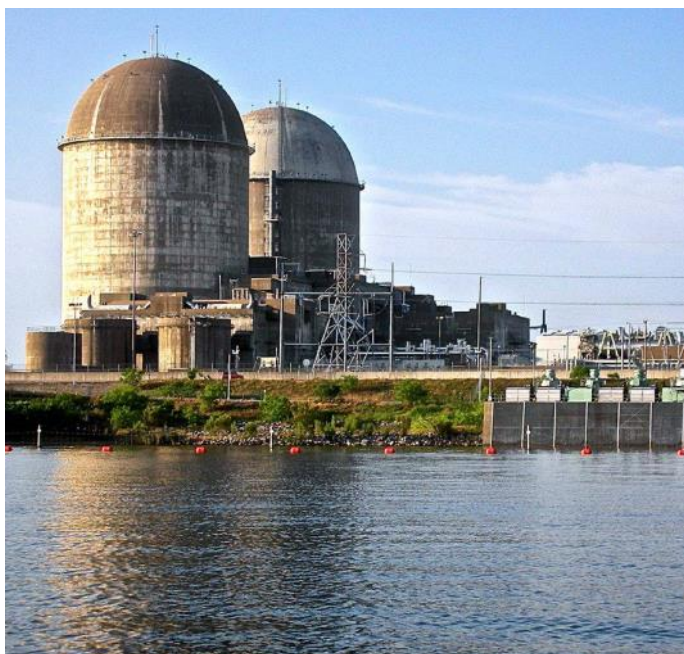
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A [new report](#) by the Union of Concerned Scientists USA finds that more than 14 million people live within 5 miles of over 100 ethylene oxide-emitting facilities in the U.S. and that people of color bear a disproportionate burden of ethylene oxide pollution. **Ethylene oxide**, a colorless gas known to cause cancer, is emitted by facilities that sterilize medical equipment and dried food products as well as by some chemical plants, posing a largely invisible and unrecognized threat to nearby communities. Two sterilizers — Sterigenics and Cosmed of Texas — are less than a mile apart in Grand Prairie, just the other side of SH 360 from Arlington. More than 240,000 people and roughly 100 schools and childcare centers are within 5 miles of at least one of these facilities. Nearly three-quarters of the population within [this radius] are people of color — more than 10% greater than the county average. There is also a greater concentration of people with low income and people with limited English language proficiency compared with the county overall. The estimated air toxics cancer risk in the census tract with both facilities is 100 additional cases per 1 million people; EtO emissions contribute to roughly 79% of the overall cancer risk in this tract (AirToxScreen 2022).

After much complaint regarding problems surrounding a virtual public meeting held weeks

continued on page 12

In Case continued from page 11



ago, the NRC has agreed to hold an in person public meeting this Thursday, 2/23, from 7-9 pm in Glen Rose. The NRC will take comments from the public at this time regarding a 20-year permit renewal application from operators of the **Comanche Peak nuclear power plant**. Persons living within a 50-mile radius of the plant will be considered to be “affected persons” by the NRC. This radius includes portions of the metropolitan areas of Ft. Worth, Arlington, and Grand Prairie. The plant owner, Vistra, is a conglomerate of energy retail and generation businesses including TXU Energy, Homefield Energy, Dynegy, Ambit Energy, and Luminant. The application for license renewal — which requires no physical plant alterations or modifications — would add an additional 20 years to the plant’s Unit 1 and Unit 2, which went online in 1990 and 1993, respectively, bringing them up to 60 years each. [<https://www.neimagazine.com/features/featurecomanche-peak-aims-for-60-year-life-10490579/>]

Liveable Arlington was able to obtain a map of oil and gas wells near the plant. Within a 20-mile

radius, there are more than 1400 active or permitted wells. Within a 50-mile radius, there were more than 5000 wells.

[<https://www.liveablearlington.org/maps>]

Vistra has listed earthquakes with magnitudes of 3 or more within their permit application from 18 miles to several hundred miles away. Lower magnitude earthquakes have occurred approximately 20 to 30 miles from the plant, in close succession, probably indicating seismic activity due to the deep injection of wastewater from oil and gas operations. The NRC would do well to examine the relationship of fracking, wastewater injection, and the risks of seismic activity in relation to the structural integrity of the aging Comanche Peak plant as oil and gas activity ramps up in the Barnett Shale. If something significant happens to the structural integrity of this plant, the results could be catastrophic.

From the Houston Chronicle 2/23/23:

"Harris County leaders late Wednesday rushed to assure residents that they would monitor **potentially hazardous wastewater** from the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment fire that is expected to be disposed of in Deer Park. The water used to fight the train derailment fire is tentatively set for disposal in the area, Judge Lina Hidalgo said. County pollution control officials and attorneys offices have reached out to federal and company officials to learn more, she said."

Updated 2/24/23: "Texas Molecular informed county officials it had taken delivery of a half million gallons of firefighting water with the expectation that 1.5 million more gallons would be hauled to the site by about 30 trucks per day." Texas Molecular claims they've been cleaning toxic waste for 40 years and have injection wells for the 2M gallons of vinyl chloride-contaminated water at their facility SE of Houston.

Heritage Trees in Arlington? John Darling

We can probably agree that we need more trees here, but do we need to call something a heritage tree? A quick search tells us that the point of this designation is protection. It's meant to be harder to remove such a tree. From Wikipedia: A heritage tree is typically a large tree with unique value that is considered irreplaceable. The major criteria for heritage tree designation are age, rarity, and size, as well as aesthetic, botanical, ecological, and historical value. Heritage tree ordinances are developed to place limits upon the removal of these trees.

It's simpler down in Austin. Just be a certain species and have a trunk diameter at breast height (dbh) of more than two feet. Then you're harder to remove, at least without more paperwork.

What do you think? Are you one of the people who considers our tree ordinance only a minor impediment to scorched-earth development? Is calling something a heritage tree somehow good for our shrinking tree population? Do you want to work for a new tree ordinance that includes heritage trees and protects all our trees better?

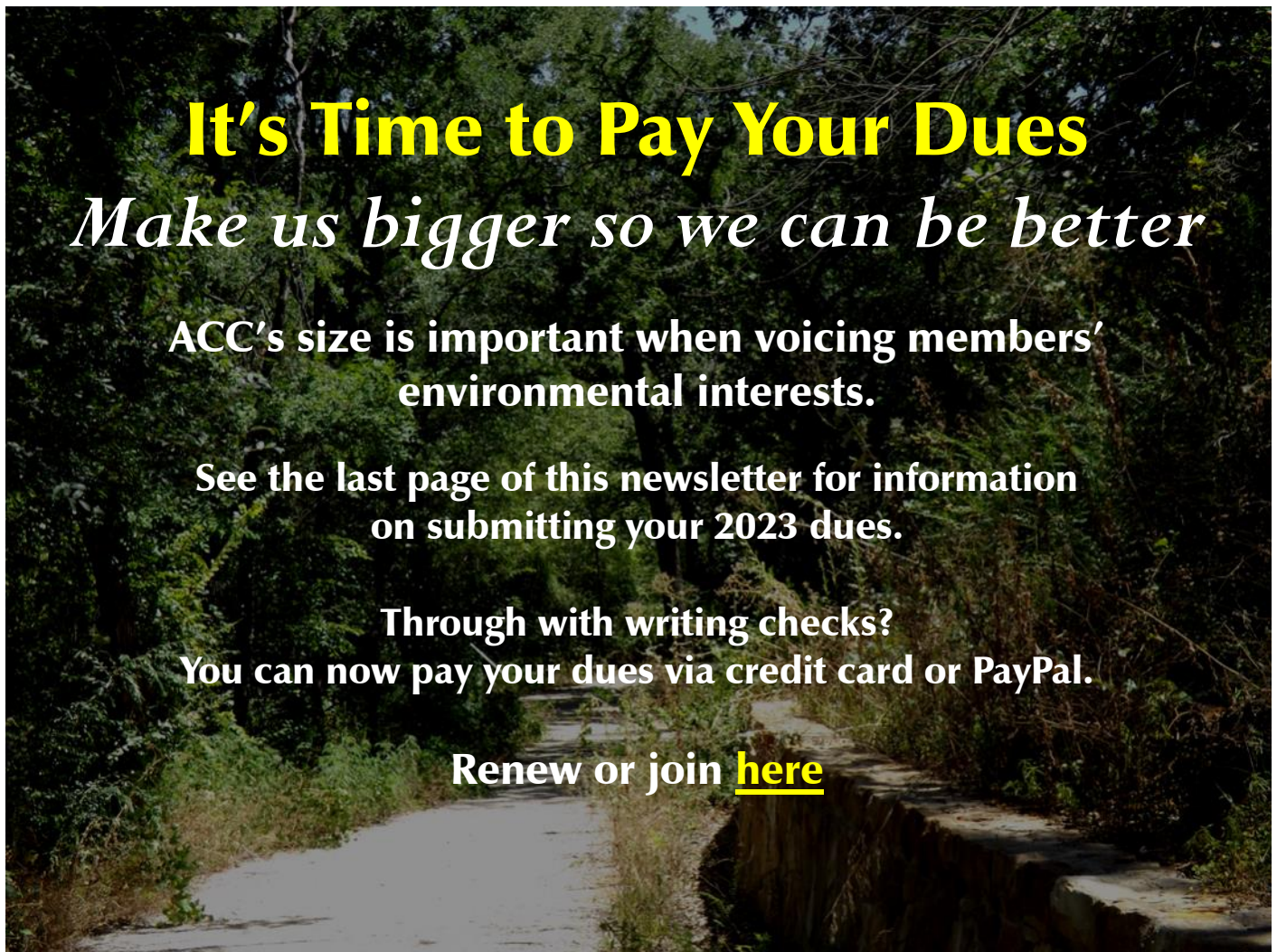
Or something much easier: If you like, we'll start ACC Heritage Trees. Just send me a photo with a few words about your choice.

Here's one of mine. A post oak, certainly not part of a wonderful woodland but a ragged survivor downtown near Main and Jeffries. The setting isn't much, and it lost its crown long ago, but this old oak has horizontal branches that laugh at gravity. Resilience, endurance, an interesting look, that's good enough for me.

Do you have a heritage tree just waiting to be known? There's room for lots more, so let's see yours.



Tasteful Dues Notice



Less Tasteful Dues Notice



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marian Hiler

Called to action by the one and only Molly Hollar — the one you can't say "no" to — Marylee Thomason has faithfully and colorfully written this column since early 2014. In addition to keeping readers in the know for the past nine years, she showed how fun it is to work and learn alongside fellow volunteers. How it truly doesn't seem like work at all. Now she's ready to pass the pen to me so she can focus on the real fun — getting her hands in the dirt.

She will remain Ann Knudsen's right-hand person, handling workday communications and helping coordinate Walk On the Wildside events for area



elementary school classes. Thank you, Marylee, for being a vital member of the team!

Late January through much of February, grass man John Snowden brought several opportunities to rescue bunches of plants. He

led a group of volunteers to an open field along

continued on page 16



The wildscape, showing places mentioned in this update.

Wildscape Update continued from page 15

287, doomed to be scraped clean in the name of development, to help rescue Texas wintergrass (*Nassella leucotricha*) and a few gems of blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium* sp). These were planted in bare spots in the Twin Oaks area and in the Pocket Prairie to increase the floral diversity.

Other days, John and Ann dug up inland sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) for installing along the gully fed by the bioswale. Per John, inland sea oats are particularly good for controlling erosion. They can handle being washed over by forming crowns in the soil dumped on top of them. In the same area, volunteers planted rescued hairy sunflower (*Helianthus hirsutus*), another good rhizomatous plant. The rhizomes (underground stems) help hold the soil.

Over in the larger rain garden in the Woodland area, Missouri violets (*Viola missouriensis*) from John's neighbor's yard were planted on the downflow side to help stop the soil from washing over the sidewalk. Violets multiply readily, provide winter interest, and



Front, Carol Marcotte and Christine Brinson plant inland sea oats in the gully down from the bioswale.

are early bloomers. Along the northern boundary, in the bare spots, willowleaf aster (*Symphotrichum praealtum*) was planted — yet another rhizomatous plant to the rescue — to combat erosion from the

continued on page 17



Left, Ramona Gratton, Marylee Thomason, Cecily Rodgers, Dana Austin and Ann Knudsen watch John Snowden demonstrate the proper method to dig up native grass. Right, After returning to the wildscape, Marylee Thomason and Cecily Rodgers, foreground, and Dana Austin, Marian Hiler, Christine Brinson, and Ramona Gratton plant the rescued Texas wintergrass. Ann Knudsen photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 16

amphitheater. All of these erosion efforts in multiple locations are needed because much of the wildscape slopes into the lower area of Veterans Park where the creek runs through it.

The generous and knowledgeable John Snowden has been there for the wildscape from its beginnings. Numerous natural areas in North Central Texas, including Arlington's Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve, O.S. Gray Natural Area, and Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve, benefit greatly from his gifts of time, energy, and expertise.

For years, the bluebonnets just past the entrance didn't last long after too many people took too many photos of too many other people, young and old, sitting in spring bluebonnets. So what do you do when park visitors continue to trample desirable plants to find that perfect Kodak moment? You outfit a special area for them (and hope they use it).

The craftily named Photo Op Spot at the northeast corner of the parking lot now sports large rocks for



The Photo Op Spot, started in fall 2021, should be ready for its initial spring sessions. The bluebonnets are just starting under the "Please Stay Off the Plants!" sign.



Emerging bluebonnets in the Photo Op Spot.

continued on page 18



Runoff from the parking lot (slowed by the bioswale) and from uphill has created a rill that feeds into the gully and then down to the creek. Photos were taken after a recent rain. Left, The bioswale, looking up toward the parking lot. Right, The rill below the bioswale.

Wildscape Update continued from page 17

seating right in front of a bed full of bluebonnets. It's early in the season, but the bluebonnets have emerged and are looking strong even after the days of freezing temps in early February. Let's see how well this works.

Another beleaguered area is on the west side between the 18th hole of the Veterans Park disc golf course and the sidewalk. A quick shortcut to the tee is damaging the plant bed. Not so quick work was to move stones to the beaten down soil, creating a small path. Hey! Golf guys! Walk this way.

First Saturday workdays and mini-classes

Bad weather canceled February's First Saturday, postponing the annual Privet Pull and other invasive plant removal to March 4. After ridding the wildscape of these botanic pests as much as possible, author and reptile enthusiast Michael Smith will present "Lizards in Blizzards" on how reptiles cope with winter weather.

The April 1 mini-class is "Let's Teach About the Importance of Our Watershed." Master Gardener/ Master Naturalist/retired teacher Hester Schwarzer and versatile volunteer Marylee Thomason will show how to use an Enviroscape model to engage children and adults on the importance of keeping our watershed free of pollutants. Using hands-on methods, the model demonstrates how water pollution can result from a variety of activities and sources in our own backyards, and how the pollution can impact water resources.

Right above, Christine Brinson helps prepare a place to position one of the stones on the new shortcut path. Carol Marcotte photo.

Below, The new path is ready for visitors taking the shortcut to the 18th hole tee. From left, Christine Brinson and Marian Hiler. Carol Marcotte photo.



Big Difference in 25 Days



It's not the same twig, but here's the same Mexican plum tree on Feb. 2 and again on the 26th. The 26th is better.



Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

Review

Getting started nature journaling Led by Michael Smith and Jessica Smith

January 28. Nature journaling is not only a way to preserve thoughts and images from a day in nature. It also is likely to make your memory of the day richer, it's an opportunity for self-reflection while writing and drawing, and promotes mindful awareness of the present moment. Michael and Jessica started us off by describing the hows and whys of nature journaling — writing, drawing, or both are all valuable and capture different aspects of your nature experience. After their introduction, we each took some time to try our hand at journaling, then came back together to share our thoughts.

Michael Smith is a Psychological Associate, author and writer (www.livesinnature.com). Jessica Smith is an artist (www.facebook.com/Goodearthart).

For information about future journaling events, please contact Michael Smith via email: MSmithLPA@outlook.com or via his website www.MSmithLPA.com.

continued on page 21



The nature journaling class on Jan 28.

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 20

As part of John Snowden's many contributions to the restoration and preservation of SCNP, he has planted 10 narrow-leaf gayfeather plants (*Liatrix punctata* var. *mucronata*) in the north prairie this week. On the left below is a photo from John of the largest corm of this species he has ever seen. It's approximately 5 1/2 inches across at the top. Not only is the size unusual but the growing points are in three groups. The main corm has begun to naturally pinch itself into three separate corms. On the right is a gayfeather in bloom from iNaturalist. It was taken at the preserve in 2017 by Kimberlie Sasan.

continued on page 22



Some signs of spring at SCNP from February 13, 18, and 19



Texas Prairie Parsley (*Polytaenia texana*) – Postoak, Mexican Plum (*Prunus Mexicana*) – joshmols, Sandy Land Bluebonnet (*Lupinus subcarnosus*) – Postoak

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 21

The Great Backyard Bird Count Jim Frisinger

Back in Feb. 17, 2007, four folks walked in a chilly morning among the hills, ponds, and meadows in Southwest Arlington to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. This was two years after the Trust for Public Land had purchased this 58-acre tract to keep it from being developed into housing, and years before the city of Arlington would open it up to the public as the Southwest Nature Preserve.

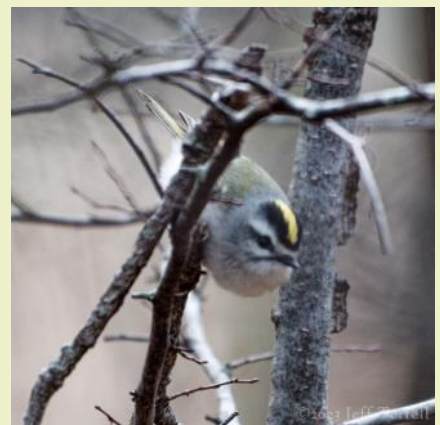
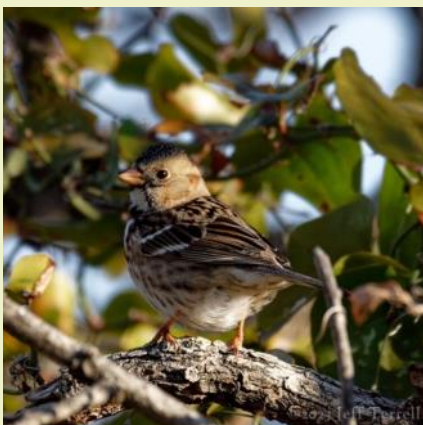
On Feb. 18, 2023, the renamed Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve played host to its 16th Great Backyard Bird Count on another chilly morning. It could well be the longest continuous data set compiled and preserved in Tarrant County for this nationwide count, which helps track the changes in bird populations over time.

This year 219 birds across 41 species were identified during the two-hour morning count. It's tied for the second-most species counted, and the third largest count of birds. Annoyingly for birders, fishermen had taken up spots on three sides of the Main Pond, probably suppressing the waterfowl count somewhat.

Not surprisingly the results largely track with earlier counts, but always with a few blips. One was the arrival of a flock of nearly a dozen Harris's sparrows, in addition to five song sparrows — both record numbers for the count. We put Merlin to good use this year — alerting us to the audio presence of some birds we would later see, or maybe never see at all. Merlin picked up an eastern meadowlark, a first for the February count.

Won't you join us next year? Mark your calendars for 8 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve.

continued on page 23



A few birds from the count: from left, Harris's sparrow, Jeff Terrell; eastern bluebird, Annabelle Corboy; golden-crowned kinglet, Jeff Terrell.

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 22

North Prairie Restoration Continues Jim Frisinger

King Ranch bluestem, *Bothriochloa ischaemum*, is an Asian species that has become invasive throughout North and Central Texas lawns and meadows. One particularly large patch is in the middle of the 2.5-acre North Prairie Restoration Site at the Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve.

Much of this tract appears to have been heavily farmed a century ago, likely cotton, until the rich prairie topsoil washed away and its remaining ag value limited to grazing. The remaining soil is heavily clay, with

no topsoil left on top. Just ask Jim Domke and Jim Frisinger, who struggled to work the dirt in the first test plot earlier this month.

To restore this section of prairie, volunteers at the preserve are preparing 14 plots to test two methods for eradicating KR bluestem, which has displaced native species here. The yard-square test plots are being hand-tilled and topped with topsoil taken from elsewhere in the preserve. Ten of them will be seeded this spring with a mix of the Big Four Prairie Grasses: switchgrass, indiangrass and big and little bluestem. Solarization will be used on the other four. Tarps will cover them in the growing season, followed by seeding the following spring. We will see which method works best!

Restoration of the North Prairie began two years ago. Volunteers continue to clear woody plants and seed or transplant native species.



Volunteer Jim Domke works on the first test plot in the North Prairie. Jim Frisinger photo.

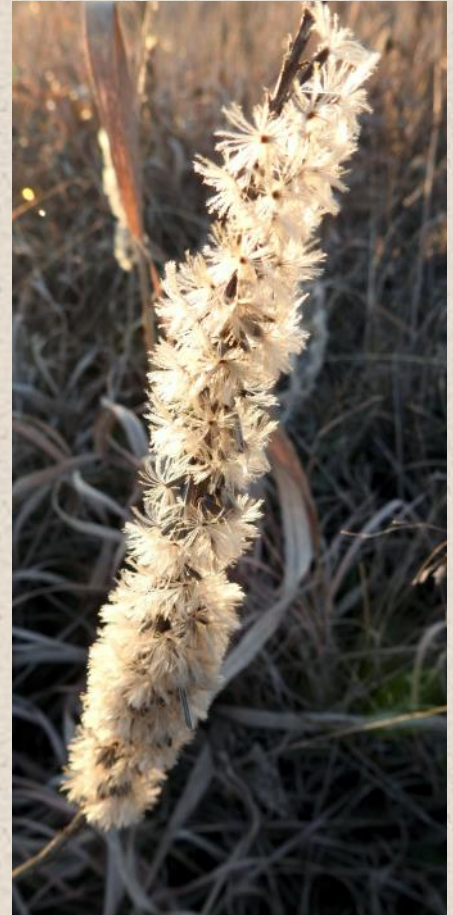
Blackland Prairie Preserve, Double Edition Guy Random



Two worlds here in early February, above and below. Look down. Try to find a tiny spot of dirt. Not easy, all hidden under new growth. Mostly miniature now, dwarfed by a towering, ravaged puffball.



Blackland Prairie Preserve continued from page 24



Look up, consider the golden hour as it glorifies all those dead stalks. But not dead at all: Countless seeds poised for the spring sprint, insects sleeping in dried stems, also waiting. It won't be too much longer.



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

Our March Zoom Meeting

Arlington's Environmental Programs: an Update

Rebecca Boxall
 City Council Member, District 5

7 pm Wed, Mar 1, 2023

Zoom meeting hosted by
 Arlington Conservation Council

Don't miss this one!

See page 5 for more on this presentation.