

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 8

OCTOBER 2023



BLACKLAND PRAIRIE PRESERVE • GUY RANDOM PHOTO

October Zoom Meeting



Read more about this program on page 5

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88144904834>

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

6:30 pm social time and equipment check, 7 pm presentation

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From the President **Dick Schoech**



Can AI Help with Environmental Problems like Privet?

I visited a neuroscience colleague in Canada recently and played with ChatGPT, an information-based smartphone tool that engages the user in conversations on a wide range of topics. Since its November 2022 introduction, it has driven global debate about how AI (artificial intelligence) will change the world, for better or otherwise.

Naturally, I wanted to see how it would address ACC's most pressing problem — invasive privet. It generated this unedited reply in about five seconds.

Removing invasive plants like Privet requires careful planning and persistence. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you remove Privet:

1. ****Identify Privet Species:**** There are different species of Privet, and it's crucial to identify which one you're dealing with since the removal methods can vary. Common species include Chinese Privet and European Privet.
2. ****Safety Gear:**** Wear appropriate safety gear, including gloves and eye protection, as Privet can be irritating to the skin and eyes.
3. ****Choose the Right Time:**** Privet is easiest to remove when it's actively growing, typically in spring or early summer. Avoid removing it during the winter when the plant is dormant.
4. ****Cutting Back:**** Start by cutting the Privet shrubs or trees as close to the ground as possible using pruning shears or a saw. Dispose of the cuttings properly.
5. ****Digging Out:**** For larger Privet shrubs or trees, dig around the base of the plant to expose the roots. Use a shovel or a mattock to carefully remove the entire root system. Be thorough to prevent regrowth.
6. ****Herbicide Application (Optional):**** If the Privet is particularly stubborn or if you have a large infestation, you may consider using a herbicide. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Glyphosate-based herbicides are effective for Privet.

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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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15th of every preceding month.
Please send them to
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From the President continued from page 3

7. ****Monitor and Repeat:**** After removal, continue to monitor the area for any Privet regrowth. Privet can be persistent, and you may need to repeat the process multiple times to completely eradicate it.

8. ****Prevent Reinfestation:**** To prevent Privet from returning, consider planting native species in its place. Native plants are more likely to thrive and outcompete invasive species.

9. ****Dispose of Debris:**** Properly dispose of all Privet debris. Do not compost it, as the cuttings and roots can potentially regrow. Bag and discard them or take them to a local landfill.

10. ****Maintain Vigilance:**** Regularly inspect your property for any signs of Privet regrowth and promptly remove any new shoots.

Remember that removing invasive plants like Privet can be a long-term process. It's important to be persistent and patient, as reinfestation is possible. If you're dealing with a particularly large or challenging infestation, you may want to seek professional help or consult with a local invasive species management organization for guidance.

I asked questions on evolution, native plants, climate change, politics, Sherlock Holmes, and many other topics. Impressive (sounding) answers always came back within 10 seconds. On request, it even gave responses on evolution in text that emulated Charles Darwin's writing style.

Try it for yourself. Install the free version of openai chatgpt from your phone's app store. The output ChatGPT provides is one's property to use. Do note that ChatGPT is known to occasionally make up facts or "hallucinate" output. I sometimes suspected it was wrong but lacked the expertise to verify.



Noted in passing:
An all-electric Rivian/Amazon delivery van running (very quietly) around the UTA campus and nearby neighborhoods. As of July, Amazon had 5,000 of them. The company says it will 100,000 by 2030.

[There's a slick video here.](#)



Jeff Ray, our October Speaker

Jeff Ray is a self-described weather science nerd and avid gardener who will share his expertise on his favorite subjects with ACC members and friends in October. Born in Lubbock, Jeff attended college and worked in Nashville and Knoxville (Tenn.); Austin; Gainesville and West Palm Beach (Fla.); Starkville (Miss.); and Kansas City and Jefferson City (Mo.) before seeing the light and coming back to Texas in 2010 as senior meteorologist with CBS 11.

He will discuss what North Central Texas can expect from an increasingly warmer planet and what we can do to prepare. Bring your questions and join us for this free Zoom presentation; everyone is welcome.

IVAN QUERIDO'S REAL HERITAGE TREE

Special field correspondent Ivan Querido continues to promote his selection of Heritage Trees. Here's his latest choice: Sure, your majestic post oaks are a dime a dozen, or they would be if we still had a dozen. What kind of namby-pamby tree gets the vapors at the sight of a bulldozer anyway? Surely the future belongs to the cedar elm like this one near downtown Dream City. Cut it down, then get out of the way — that tree's coming back fast whether you like it or not.



JENNY WREN

Human ears so love a rhyme
Small wonder that this wren
I'm staring at today
Should be named Jenny
(As I'm sure she is).

Perched high upon the top
Of my ragged holly border
She sits and neatly preens
Each feather of her tiny body,
Ensuring none is soiled or out of place.

And as she preens, her pointy face
Looks thoughtful, for she knows this act
Deserves her best attention — as it does
Since pest-free health and fleet flight
Depend upon this care.

I hold my breath
For fear she'll fly away
Before she's done —
My contribution, if you please,
To aiding Nature's order.

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Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



Spineless prickly pear coming back slowly after that ugly cold in February 2021.

It's just a cultivated thing? Not too bad, though.

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

Best Caterpillar Award



Harris's Three-spot: just another pretty moth, or is there more? This one came to a UV light in central Arlington. It sounds ordinary: large range, varied diet. But you must see the caterpillar. It has to be from another galaxy. No question.



Mexican plums after the rain

Birdseed Bonus



Rough sunflowers (*Helianthus hirsutus*) past their prime, but not for maurading gangs of Carolina chickadees and house finches. They must have read the native plant handbook; those ravenous brutes have been clinging to the spent blooms and bolting down seeds. It's a system at work.

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



Question Corner John Darling

Q: Here's a sort of ethical question: Every day when I stumble home from work, I go by a fire hydrant that must have a very slow underground leak. Even during the worst of the drought there's a shallow pool in the gutter. In passing, I see birds drinking and bathing. Not just grackles and house sparrows, but blue jays, cardinals, house finches, crows, and even eastern bluebirds. So do I report this obvious waste of world-class, beautifully treated water, knowing that millions of people all over the world are going without? Or can I justify the waste in terms of the apparent needs of those mostly common suburban birds? I do get a selfish pleasure from seeing the birds. And I don't seem to care about the leaky hydrants I never see.



A: Get real. Swimming pools, golf courses, acres of corporate campus grass, immaculate weedless lawns, versus eastern bluebirds in the gutter? So be serious and shut up. Next!

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Hours 10 - 6 Mon - Sat,
Closed Sun

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We're Doing Something Big



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

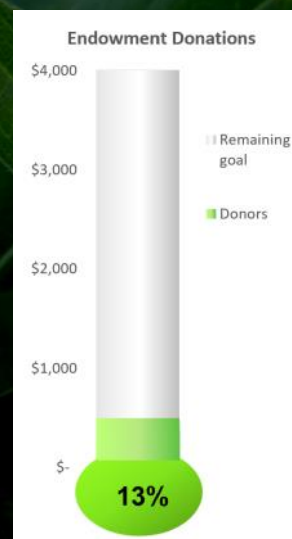
Phase 1 is already helping.*

Now we're working on Phase 2.

An anonymous donor wants us to help even more and has come forward with a second challenge.

This donor will match 5 to 1 the next \$4,000 of donations from you.

If met, the endowment will net \$24,000!



Thanks to you, we have made a start.

We'll get there.

You'll see.

Donate [here](#) and keep it growing.

*The first endowment scholarship has been awarded to UTA sophomore Alexander Andronov. 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. Watch his presentation [here](#).

My Nature Notebook

They're just playing, okay?

Green June bugs are so great and all of a sudden they're everywhere and that's good

unless they get all squished. And that's okay too because all that stuff inside looks very cool when you get your baby brother to play with



it. It stinks a lot and he likes that. But two of them were sort of stuck together in the creepy old guy's yard and I said hey, what are they doing, huh?

And he said they're just playing, go away. And I said but - and he said look they don't hurt anything much and lots of animals like to eat them so let's just drop it. Maybe you can ask your mother about those two but I'm definitely not talking about it because she already has the police watching me after last time. Really, go away.

Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte text and photos



Our August 25 volunteer morning was filled with deadheading, weeding and pest control. *Above*, volunteers Dick Schoech, Carol Marcotte, Patsy Miller. Dick Schoech (*at right*) and Carol Marcotte removed khakiweed, *Alternanthera pungens*, from a large area near the pond in a few hours. Also known as alligatorweed or creeping chaffweed, khakiweed was introduced from Central and South America and is now widely established in Australia, Southern Africa and Texas. The white flowers with straw bracts are uncomfortable on children's bare feet and dog paws.

Songbirds are migrating south during September, October and November. Please help them by turning off your outdoor lights and drawing your curtains, especially in the early morning hours. *Below*, our Lights Out DFW banner.



Below, Some post oaks that are already damaged have fallen victim to the drought and heat. These are recycled into trash collectors by placing them across the creek to catch debris.

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Randol Mill Park continued from page 10

Recent park scenes, clockwise from right: fallen tree covered by bracket fungi; great egret at the pond; rain lily, a sight for sore eyes; domestic mallard (white) with domestic Muscovy. Carol Marcotte photos. continued on page 12



Randol Mill Park continued from page 11

UTA Super Service Saturday was held at the park on Sept 9, 2023. Arlington Parks & Recreation Department staff got the event started. Dick Schoech ended up supervising 10 UTA students and working (hard) himself to move piles of mulch onto the RMP trails. APRD supplied the mulch, tools, and wheelbarrows. We're grateful to those enthusiastic, tireless students. (*Dick Schoech photos*)



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



Insect Adaptation to Cold. All cold blooded animals have their body temperature roughly similar to the surrounding temperature. Insects are cold blooded. They become sluggish in temperatures below 50°F. Freezing temperatures kill insects. During winter, some insects migrate to warmer places. Others hibernate or undergo diapause. Every fall, the Monarch butterfly moves south in large numbers and spends winter in tropical areas. In spring they begin the return journey back home. Migration with seasons is a method of escaping unfavorable weather.

The second method, hibernation or diapause, is seen in non-migrant species of butterfly. During this phase, the butterfly suspends temporarily its activities. No growth and development occur in egg, caterpillar, or pupa. The adult hides itself in a suitable place and remains motionless. Diapause is a butterfly's safeguard during adverse conditions.

The eggs of Banded Hairstreak survive the winter with no development taking place. Larvae do not hatch until the exit of winter.

The caterpillars of Red spotted Purple and Viceroy Butterflies burrow underground or roll into leaf

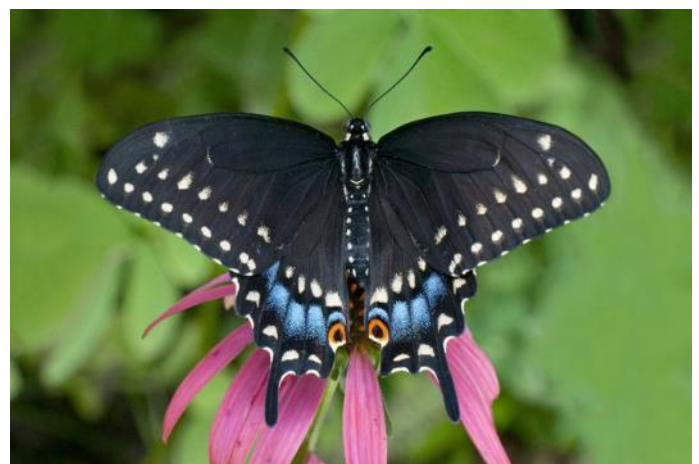
tubes and crawl inside. They stop feeding and sustain themselves on their body reserves.

Gray Hairstreak, Cabbage white and Swallowtails spend winter in their pupal stage. The pupal cover acts as an insulation chamber. The pupa uses the energy stored from the larval stage and remains dormant. Metamorphosis into adult butterfly gets temporarily suspended.

Adults of Mourning cloaks, Question marks, Commas recede into spaces in-between log piles, bark and even attics inside houses. [<https://www.butterflyzone.org/antifreeze/>]

Butterfly Antifreeze. From a recent Facebook post: "... Unlike Monarch butterflies, Black Swallowtails are local to New England and therefore have adapted to our cold winters. Eggs laid this late will overwinter as chrysalises and emerge in May when the weather warms up. These guys will pupate in mid October and spend the winter sheltered in my unheated garage snug. How do they not freeze solid you might wonder? Temperate-zone butterflies thicken their blood with glycerol, sorbitol or other antifreeze agents which act just like the antifreeze we put in our cars."

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Black swallowtail

In Case continued from page 13



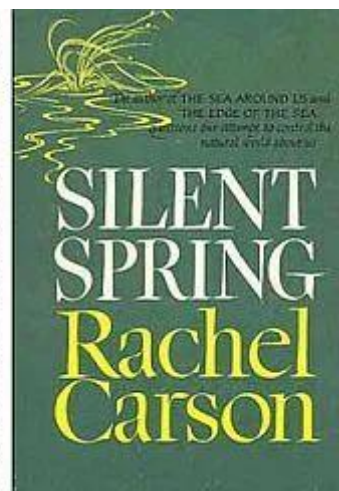
Without the Bees We Would Not Be Here

News: First, *bees and water*. Bees use water for two main reasons: to cool their hive and to thin out crystalized honey. Bees have two stomachs, one for eating and another for nectar and/or water transportation, known as the “honey stomach.” When the forager bees who are on water collection duty reach their hive with the collected water, the water is regurgitated at the entrance of the hive where a house bee will collect and carry the water into the hive, spit it out into the cells and, using her wings to fan the cells, she creates an air-conditioned hive. This is done to keep the hive at an optimum temperature of around 34° or 35°C. The reason the hive needs to stay at these temperatures is to create ideal laying conditions for the queen, her brood, and for the general overall fitness of the hive.

Ever wondered why bees seem drawn more to dirty water than bowls of fresh, clean water? Here are some interesting reasons why. Bees find water by smell rather than sight. If water is too clean, the bees might miss it. Algae, chlorine, moss, and earthy odors easily attract thirsty bees. Many experts believe that it is the scent of the source that helps them find water, whether it's the smell of mud, mold, algae, bacteria, or even chlorine. Bees can't see water the way we do. They fly rapidly over the ground and things appear in a blur. They see certain colors, they see movement, but they probably don't see water. But their sense of smell can guide them to

it — or, more accurately, to the things in it. There are many stories floating about how to feed bees sugar water, grated apple and watermelon and a whole load of other strange and totally unnecessary concoctions to ‘help’ the bees, but bees know better than anyone what they need: The less we interfere, the better they will be.

As for Pollen: Nectar is carbohydrate for bees; pollen is their protein. Bees have to dry the nectar and add enzymes to create honey, and they have to process pollen (which consists of hard balls with a tiny hole) into “bee bread” to make it usable. Pollen is their main source of protein and is also used to feed larvae. In the spring the bees are frantic for pollen, because they need it to feed their brood . . . fortunately, early-blooming native plants help with that. [Wikipedia and various Internet and Facebook sources]



A Mighty Girl Indeed

Rachel Carson's landmark book "Silent Spring" — which helped to launch the modern environmental movement — was first published on September 27, 1962. The marine biologist and author's famous work documented the dangers of indiscriminate use of synthetic pesticides, especially on bird populations.

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In Case continued from page 14

Though its publication was met with strong opposition from the chemical industry, the scientific community largely supported her conclusions. *Silent Spring* also served as a rallying point for the young environment movement just gaining momentum at the time of its publication. The book fueled public interest in environmental and public health issues and, within a few years, the Nixon Administration formed the Environmental Protection Agency. Much of the EPA's early work focused on issues raised by Carson's work, such as a 1972 law regulating pesticides and a US ban on the agricultural use of DDT. Carson's book *Silent Spring* is considered one of the 20th century's most influential works of nonfiction and, in 2006, the editors of Discover Magazine named it one of the 25 greatest science books of all time. For her many contributions to environmental conservation, President Carter posthumously awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. [Facebook, A Mighty Girl, Sept 27, 2020]



Never Too Old to Fight the Good Fight

On the occasion of former president Jimmy Carter's 99th birthday, The Washington Post ran a story about his long life of good works and service to others, as well as his often-overlooked concern for the environment: "Earlier this month, President Biden personally sent word to Carter that he had moved to

protect millions of acres in Alaska and canceled oil drilling leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. 'Biden knows how much this means to him,' said his son James Earl 'Chip' Carter III, who took the White House call. Jimmy Carter has described the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act as one of the most important achievements of his presidency and was angry when Donald Trump opened the Arctic refuge to oil drilling. More recently, at the age of 97, Carter filed a lawsuit to block the construction of a road through the Alaska wilderness." [<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/10/01/jimmy-carter-99-birthday-plains-georgia/>]

Color Us Green With Jealousy. As part of the adopted fiscal year 2024 budget, the City of Fort Worth has established a new Environmental Services Department through a new organizational structure that aligns with the strategic vision of the city. Existing services to include environmental quality, consumer health, and solid waste have been unified within the Code Compliance Department for several years. Effective Oct 1, these functions will form the new department aligned with the budget theme for FY2024: So Safe, So Clean, So Green.

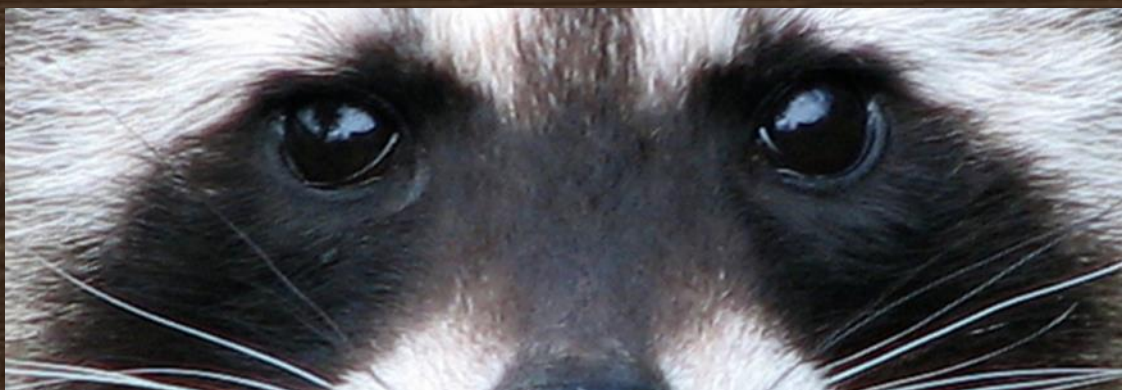
Forming the Environmental Services Department offers several benefits:

- Elevating environmental goals (safe, clean and green).
- Aligning and promoting key initiatives (Open Space Program, litter control, waste management).
- Maintaining synergy between Environmental Quality and Solid Waste Services.
- Increasing focus on programs and services which include: litter control efforts, environmental service capacity, consumer health protections, and solid waste services.

Social Media

Be sure to visit
ACC's Facebook page
and
Arlington Conservation Council
Discussion Group

We'll be watching.
No, wait. Actually, we won't.



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marian Hiler

All it took was cooler temps and precious rains in mid-September — signs fall is near — to awaken dormant flora to bloom again after hunkering down during the seemingly endless brutal summer.

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American beautyberries (*Callicarpa americana*) are laden with their hallmark magenta purple berry clusters.



Bees flock to the citrusy fragrance of the Texas kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia texana*)



The Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*) trees are loaded with mauve fruit on their way to turning purple — if the birds don't get them first. Ann Knudsen photo.



Autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*) coming back for its fall showing after taking the summer off.



Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*) flower buds will be opening any day now.

Wildscape Update continued from page 17, continued on page 19



Blooms of Mealy Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*), forefront, also making a return fall engagement backed up by Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*).



Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*) is definitely one of the wildscape's stalwart species.



Always a sweet surprise, a Small's Rain Lily (*Zephyranthes smallii*) reveals itself after a heavy fall rain.



Rock Rose (*Pavonia lasiopetala*) responding favorably to the September rainfall. Ann Knudsen photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 18

The recent rains gave the volunteers a chance to put away the water hoses, pick up trowels and clippers so they could concentrate on weeding and trimming aggressive plants. Sad to say, maintenance had to address the results of mischief-making: Drip hoses had to be buried out of sight again after someone pulled them up; the lock to the storage shed had to be coaxed open after a vandal jammed a piece of wood into it — the downside to being a public park. The much bigger upside is the numerous visitors who thank us for keeping the wildscape in shape. A bonus is when one of them goes to the next level by asking to join in the fun. This happened on the most recent workday: Meet Katy Walsh, the fifth enthusiastic walk-on volunteer just this year.

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The ever-important weeding crew. From left, Madison Gover, Carol Marcotte, Robin Agee, and newest volunteer Katy Walsh. Marian Hiler photos



From left, Bonnie Garcia, Jane Oosterhuis, and Joe Martinez trim back cedar elms that are encroaching on the pathway by the butterfly garden. Patsy Miller buries, yet again, drip hoses by the woodland area. Ann Knudsen photos. Melanie Harris doing what many before her couldn't: getting the lock free of the wooden stick bits some joker stuffed into it. Dana Austin photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 19

Super Service Saturday, Sept. 9

As part of UTA's annual Super Service Saturday event, six energetic student volunteers came to the Wildscape to do just that – super service. Wildscape volunteers were there primarily to give them some direction, though Joe Martinez was right there working alongside them. In two hours they hauled heavy stones from the southernmost end to the northernmost boundary. The stones now outline the edge to let mowers know where to stop mowing. The students also loaded up wheelbarrows with chips to spread on the wide pathway starting from the sidewalk by the woodland area and ending at the stone bridge. We greatly appreciated their enthusiastic attitude and job well done.

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Clockwise from above left, Joe Martinez adjusts the stones that Evan Starnes and Miguel Martinez have laid out. Stephanie Garcia and Susan Gonzalez load up some wood chips. Kingsley Agyemang and Stephanie Garcia watch as Evan Starnes and Susan Gonzales start the return for more chips. Kingsley Agyemang and Stephanie Garcia make sure the path is covered. Ann Knudsen photos.

Wildscape Update continued from page 20

First Saturday workday and mini-class

There wasn't a first Saturday workday or mini-class in September due to the Labor Day Holiday; the regular schedule will resume October 7. Email notifications will be sent to the usual groups.



The UTA Super Servers. Sitting Jackson Griffiths and Susan Gonzalez, standing Stephanie Garcia, Miguel Martinez, Evan Starnes, and Kingsley Agyemang. Photo Ann Knudsen.

Wildscape Extra Josephine Keeney

Wildscape Plant Sale Volunteers, Thank You for a Remarkable Job

The sale was a great success in spite of all the difficulties in keeping the plants safe. The gross sales are up there with our best.

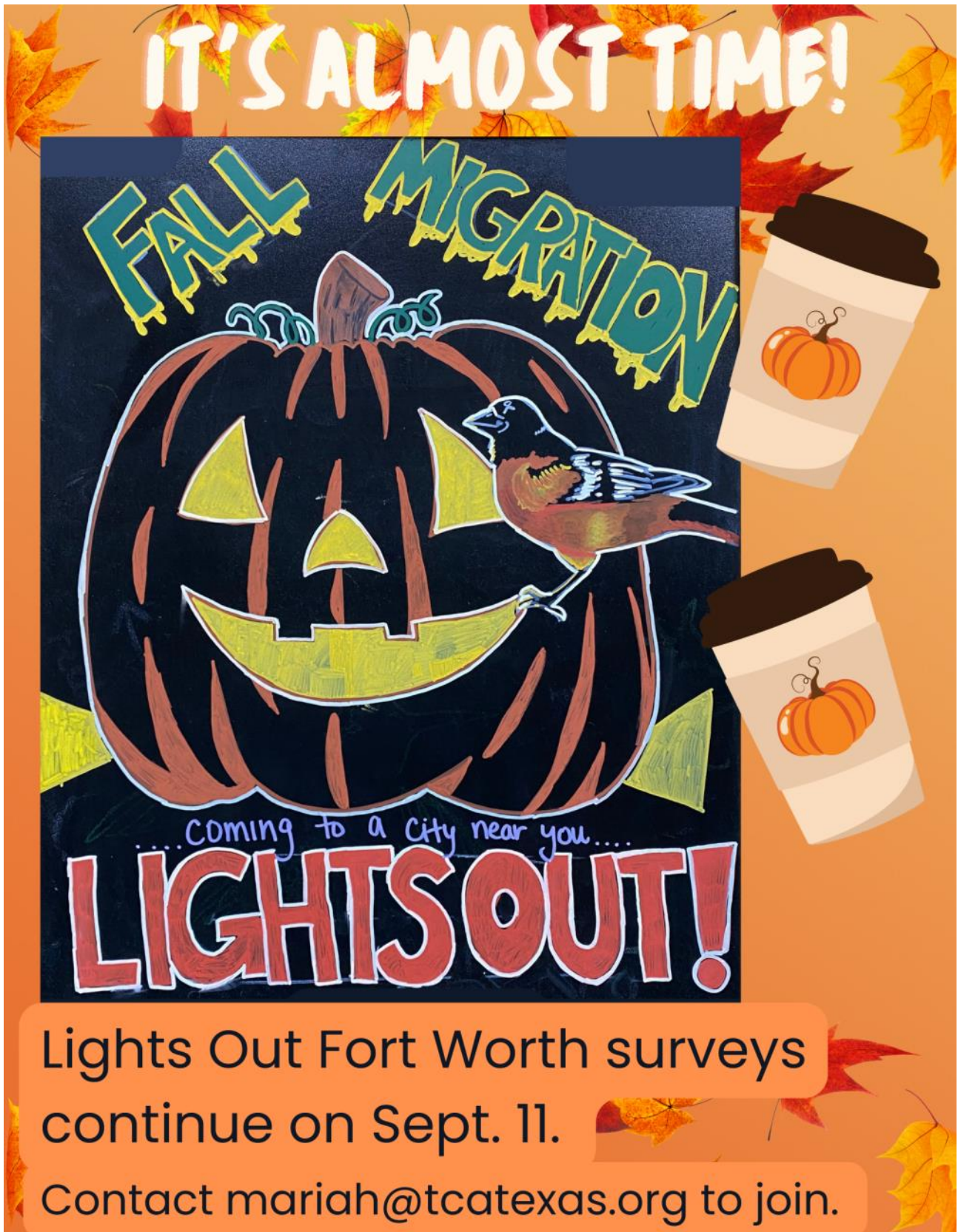
Everyone did a great job in a generous spirit of cooperation. Cashiers, gate keeper, ticket writers, and sales helpers were amazing, with many going above and beyond. I have never seen cleanup done so fast. You guys were dynamos.

Thank you again on behalf of the Molly Hollar Wildscape.



The amazing plant sale crew. From left, sitting: Frank Keeney, Hester Schwarzer, Joe Martinez. Standing, from left: Dick Schoech, Denise Pederson, Dana Austin, Josephine Keeney, Bonnie Garcia, Jane Oosterhuis, Kay Sekio, Carol Shinsky Marcotte, Christine Brinson and Charley Amos. Not pictured Marylee Thomason. Grace Darling photo.

For more, go to [Lights Out, Texas](https://www.lightsouttexas.org)

The graphic has an orange background with scattered autumn leaves. At the top, the text "IT'S ALMOST TIME!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a dark blue rectangular area contains the words "FALL" and "MIGRATION" in large, stylized, green letters with yellow outlines and a dripping effect. In the center of this blue area is a large jack-o'-lantern with a carved face. A small bird with brown, white, and blue feathers is perched on the right side of the pumpkin. Below the pumpkin, the text "...coming to a city near you..." is written in a small, white, cursive font. At the bottom of the blue area, the words "LIGHTS OUT!" are written in large, bold, red letters with white outlines. To the right of the blue area, there are two white coffee cups with black lids, each featuring a small orange pumpkin illustration. At the bottom of the graphic, there are two white text boxes with orange borders. The first box contains the text "Lights Out Fort Worth surveys continue on Sept. 11." and the second box contains the text "Contact mariah@tcatexas.org to join.".

IT'S ALMOST TIME!

FALL MIGRATION

...coming to a city near you...

LIGHTS OUT!

Lights Out Fort Worth surveys continue on Sept. 11.

Contact mariah@tcatexas.org to join.

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

Bats of the Area and How to Find Them **Oct. 14, 7 pm**

We're very fortunate to be able to reschedule this program, and we hope that weather conditions will be more favorable for us and the bats on October 14!

Local bat enthusiasts Ellen Ravkind and Anne Alderfer along with bat expert Kate Rugroden from the Bat World Sanctuary will present the program at the preserve. Kate will talk about the bats in this area and the role the sanctuary plays in education and rehabilitation. Ellen and Anne will demonstrate the use of the echo location devices from Wildlife Acoustics (Echo Meter Touch 2).



Kate Rugroden is Director of Special Projects for the Bat World Sanctuary and is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, specializing in bats, raccoons, and opossums. To learn more, visit www.batworld.org and www.bwmidcities-batworld.org. Dr. Ellen Ravkind is the Naturalist Manager/Environmental Educator at River Legacy Foundation/River Legacy Nature Center. Anne Alderfer is a part-time Naturalist at River Legacy Park and a Master Naturalist.

We will meet in the amphitheater that overlooks the south pond. You might want to 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.

Macroinvertebrates at SCNP in November

“Does what you can't see in the water bug you?” We will explore water entomology and stream-side ecology. We will learn the connections between aquatic invertebrates and the health of the water and learn about aquatic species collection and how to determine species types and numbers and what their presence (or not) may mean in our nature preserve pond environment.

Our leaders are: Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, Retired Education Director at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Melissa Walker, City of Arlington Stormwater Education Specialist and Bee City USA Affiliate Coordinator.



Look for details in the Friends of SCNP October newsletter and on Facebook.

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Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 24

Weather Update: Some Rain at Last Jim Frisinger text and photos

The big news at Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve is the end of the punishing drought this summer, which was accompanied by a brutal heat dome. Spotty showers steered clear of the preserve from June 23 through Aug. 27, when a splash of rain hit. Only on Sept. 16 did “real rain” arrive — more than half an inch! Established prairie plants — especially Spanish gold — took it in stride; transplants struggled, and a few mature trees succumbed.

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Above from left, a grass transplant survivor, the encouraging rain gauge, a liatris (gayfeather) transplant survivor. Below, Spanish gold with assorted visitors. Jim Frisinger photos.



Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 25

Third Saturday Volunteer Day Jim Frisinger

Beating back aggressive native species that threaten prairie pockets at Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve was the focus of this month's Third Saturday Volunteer Day.

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Above from left, Volunteer Yevy Ivashchuk shows off a monster grapevine he was removing to improve the health of an oak bordering the North Prairie at Sheri Capehart. Jim Domke hauls away a mesquite. Volunteer Lily Smith takes a little instruction on the fine art of cutting Johnsongrass from Morgan Chivers. Below from left, Encroaching honey locusts are a particular problem around the amphitheater overlooking the South Pond. Volunteers Glenn Butler and Morgan Chivers dispatch a Chinese pistache. Jim Frisinger hauls mesquite and honey locust cuttings to cover a social trail in need of shutting down. Jim Domke photo. All others on this page by Jim Frisinger.



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Third Saturday Volunteer Day Annabelle Corboy

Grass expert John Snowden brought seed and tools, and we got busy planting in the North Prairie.

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From left, Jim Domke, John Snowden, Jim Frisinger, and Glenn Butler. Annabelle Corboy photo.

Right, John Snowden and Jim Frisinger collect seeds for future planting in the preserve. Jim Domke photo.

Below, Did someone say aquatic invertebrates coming in November? Looks like the last time was Sept. 26, 2016. We had fun then, and a lot of us are already looking forward to the program. Let's find some larval dragonflies!



Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 27

SCNP iNaturalist Observations and Species August 2023

We thought July was hot! August's totals: 54 Observations, 38 Species, and 9 Observers. About like July.



Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) - joshmols, Bitterweed (*Helenium amarum*) – drawntoscales, Halloween Pennant (*Celithemis eponina*) - outdoorcrazy



Green Anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) - jaytee60, Yellow Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*) - jaytee60, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) - jaytee60

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - kayler09



Blackland Prairie Preserve Guy Random

What's new? More toasted plants and big cracks in the black earth. Scattered late-season flowers that don't care about drought. The big change: swaths of flattened, twisted grasses pressed by wind and rain.



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Our October Zoom Meeting



See page 5 for more on this presentation.