

ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POST oak

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MOLLY HOLLAR
1928 - 2024



February Zoom Meeting



Read more on page 6

Watch this program on our YouTube channel.

Find it [HERE](#)

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From the President **Dick Schoech**



Molly: Great Person, Great Life, Great Example

It's hard to find words to describe Molly Hollar and the influence she had on Arlington's nature and environmental community. She practiced what she preached by adopting a small piece of park land and transforming it into a beautiful training laboratory. The wildscape illustrated to anyone wanting to enjoy a pleasant walk in nature how to beautify a landscape with native plants.

Due to her gentle and pleasing personality, many volunteered wanting to help her. With quick success, she spread her message to others, especially teens and young students who toured the wildscape in groups. She made it easy for all to follow in her footsteps.

She was very generous. She gave me tools and bird feeders. She toured my yard and offered planting suggestions. She gave me a hard-to-find toothache tree that the giant swallowtail caterpillars quickly decimated. So she gave me another.

The pictures below show how she enjoyed educating others about her passion for nature and what it could do for them. The captions illustrate some of the traits and actions that made her beloved.



She enjoyed people, which made her most likable. (A youth leadership group at the wildscape, one of many Molly hosted over the years.)

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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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From the President continued from page 3



She was knowledgeable and super-enthusiastic about native plants. She quickly converted anyone she talked to.



She loved kids of all ages.



She was dedicated to everything in nature, big and small, and loved to share her enthusiasm.

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From the President continued from page 4



She never avoided hard work.

Let's all continue to follow Molly's example the best we can.

Our February Zoom Program

Feb. 7, 7 pm

Trees provide habitat for many species of animals, plants, and microorganisms. Whether used for shelter or food, for courtship, nesting, or hunting platforms, trees are wildlife magnets: Their flowers, fruits, leaves, buds, and woody parts are enjoyed by many different species of animals, which Hester will talk about at the Feb. 7 program meeting of ACC.

After a childhood in the East Texas bottomlands, Hester married and moved to Colorado for 30 years, where she earned a college degree from UCCS with a double major in education and environmental science. While raising her own family, she taught elementary school at the USAF Academy for 8 years before returning to Texas in the early '80s.

Back home, Hester resumed her teaching and naturalist careers with renewed fervor and began volunteering one day per month at the Fort Worth Nature Center, where she expanded her knowledge of the local ecology and honed her skills as a presenter of natural history programs.

Inevitably, one day Hester ran into a kindred soul, Molly Hollar, who immediately recruited her to help in the Arlington wildscape that now bears her name, and thus began a lifelong friendship and an extensive catalog of volunteer activities with multiple organizations for Hester.

Watch this program on our YouTube channel. Find it [HERE](#).

From Ann Knudsen: Hester has been volunteering for the Molly Hollar Wildscape almost since its beginning and for River Legacy about as long. She has been a true champion in educating both young and old about nature. The wildscape has depended on her for getting presenters for mini-classes and developing and improving WOW field trips for schools. We have been enriched by her tireless efforts. No one deserves to be recognized more. Thank you, Hester.



Question Corner **John Darling**

Q: I'm new here and just started walking in the wildscape where some people were talking about how much they would miss Molly. Who is that?

A: Among other things, Molly was the Earth Mother of the wildscape and the mother of my dentist, Gail. At one scary dental session I must have babbled about nature stuff, and Dr. Gail insisted we go right away to meet her mother. It's a poor idea to annoy your dentist, so there I was, the latest happy victim among so many, floating in the warmth of the Molly Effect. Primary symptom: working hard on things you had no intention of doing while feeling grateful for the opportunity. For over 20 years the wildscape has had a compost site whose wonderful volunteers (not me) have pumped out black gold for all those plants. That started with my dentist. And the Molly Effect.



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Bits & Pieces

ACC on YouTube

Arlington Conservation Council recently set up its own [YouTube](#) channel to upload presentations given at its monthly meetings. Speakers address a range of environmental topics including local issues, wildlife, native plants and natural areas. Be sure to check the channel soon after each monthly meeting for the latest program upload. From time to time videos of related interest will be uploaded as well.

For biodiversity fans

[Here's an article](#) about some unusual Australian suburbanites who used their COVID lockdown time to make an exhaustive survey of the plants and animals in and around their house. Have a look to see how close they came to their estimate of 200 species. *Right, a blue-banded bee, one of many insects they found.*



IVAN QUERIDO'S REAL HERITAGE TREE

Special field correspondent Ivan Querido is not so cocky this time: Yeah, so there's this Eve's necklace I started seeing last winter. Waited for it to green up, but nope, not one leaf. Ignored by everybody — property owner doesn't care, people in the buildings busy with their business. Now, in the second winter it's still bringing me down.



Mollyscape Memories

Years ago I was a wildscape volunteer.
Really just an awkward compost guy
At Molly's green palace.
Hunkering, pulling, maybe planting only a little.

But not at all for many years.
Why not? It's a sad question that won't shut up
As I relish your Molly memories drifting in.

All of mine are old, but mostly there's
Molly, so happy for every spoonful of compost
You'd think she was welcoming a stranger
Who stopped to thank her
For the beautiful flowers.

But no, she'd say, "It's not me at all,
It's these wonderful volunteers!
And by the way, I'm certain
You'd enjoy becoming one of them.
And how lucky we'd be to have you."

Just more Molly magic at work,
Applied without effort, without a trace of guile.
I'm happy now to have received a portion.

Juan Lubeemitz

Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

We held two creek cleanup events in December. The participants at the Dec. 8 cleanup were Laurie Jagielski (*lower right*), Charles Richards and Carol Marcotte. We found plenty of litter in the creek.

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Randol Mill Park continued from page 9

Amy and Charles Richards have been park visitors since the 1990s. I don't know why it's taken so long for me to become acquainted with them.

Amy is an avid birder and photographer. Charles is a solid environmentalist who has taken to keeping RMP waterways free of litter. Their dog, Bentley, participates in park activities, too.

Below, a few examples of winter birds in the park by Amy Richards: clockwise from upper left: cedar waxwing, American goldfinch, pine warbler. Lower left: yaupon holly by Carol Marcotte.

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Randol Mill Park continued from page 10

There are lots of impromptu volunteer workdays at Randol Mill Park. Here are five recent examples:

Dec 8 – Charles Richards donated bald cypress trees to the pond area.

Dec 12 – We picked up litter throughout the park.

Dec 14 – We weeded the Triangle Garden and found a pink flamingo next to a bluebonnet plant.

Dec 21 – Dick Schoech and Carol Marcotte spread native plant seed and planted throughout the Natural Area. A new Mexican Feather Grass area by the pond was started.

Dec 24 – Charles Richards continued to collect aquatic litter, now with his new extended grabber.

If anyone has time on their hands and wants to volunteer in the park, please contact me!

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Randol Mill Park continued from page 11

Sunny day to work in the Triangle Garden. We trimmed, weeded, and spread cuttings into a new area of the park.



Above, Volunteers taking a well-earned break from the Triangle Garden. Left: Denise Pederson, Susan Miller. Right, from back to front: Charley Amos, Josephine Keeney, Dick Schoech, Jane Oosterhuis. Carol Marcotte photo.

Right, One of MANY tangles of fishing line from RMP. The Parks Department has agreed to install fishing line receptacles around the park's waters. Carol Marcotte photo.

Visitors and volunteers have found fishhooks and fishing lines that can strangle wildlife in the pond and creek.

Updates to follow.



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marian Hiler

Developing the initial quarter acre

“I would have paid to work here...”

...was Molly's typical response after being commended for all her hours spent in the wildscape. In some ways she did pay monetarily. As treasurer, I could never get her to turn in her expense receipts, and lord knows she had many. But more importantly, she invested her heart and soul into nurturing the seed Julia Burgen planted back in 1994 when the original grant application was submitted. There's no argument, Molly is the reason the wildscape is the jewel it is today.

Growing up in the mostly treeless Texas panhandle, she developed a passion for gardening and wildlife preservation. That passion compelled her to seek information in books, by attending conferences and consulting with experts. Her concern for habitat loss made her become an active member of the environmental groups AOGC, ACC, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and Native Plant Society.

The wildscape pushed all her buttons, as she told fellow volunteer Diana Kunde (TPW Magazine, March 2009): “I used to say that if I were a millionaire, I'd buy some land, create a natural habitat, and invite people over. I feel so fortunate now that we have this.”

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Above, Molly discussing the possibilities with Rosa Finsley, leading native landscape architect. Below, A thrilled Molly working with volunteers as they begin work to establish the original butterfly garden by the pond.



Wildscape Update continued from page 13

Developing the initial quarter acre

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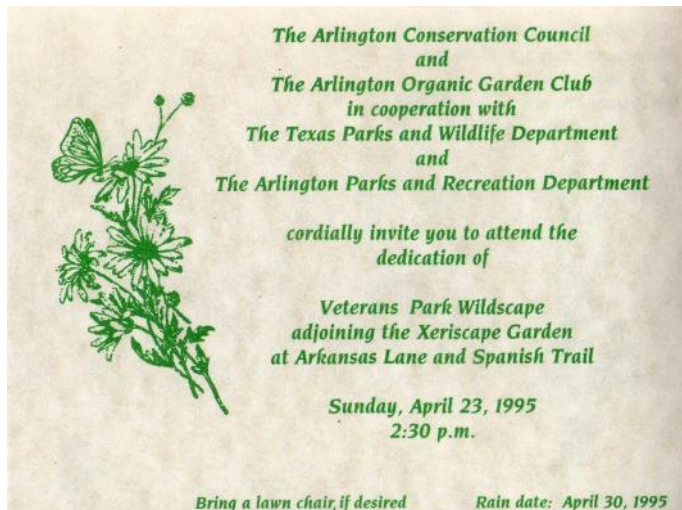
Above, Molly in the thick of it during the pond construction. Below, Planting aquatic plants in the finished pond.



Wildscape Update continued from page 14

Dedication April 1995

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Above left, Invitation to the April 23, 1995, wildscape dedication. Right, Martha Martin and Tommy Conway reveal the brand new wildscape sign. Below, Key players cut the ribbon, from left, Molly Hollar, Julia Burgen, Ray Whitney (TPWD), Pete Jamieson (APRD), Debbie Simek, and Gayla Stephenson.



Wildscape Update continued from page 15

Phase II

US Fish & Wildlife Service provided a \$25K grant to expand the wildscape from ½ acre to 3.29 acres, which included the creek area and woodland restoration.



Phase II groundbreaking - Molly continues to happily do the heavy lifting as Pete Jamieson, APRD Director, and Mike McCollum, USFW, watch.

Below left, Molly making plants grow.

Below right, Volunteers enjoying propagating natives at Molly's.

Propagation

After the grant money ran out, Molly started propagating plants on her back porch. She built a tiny greenhouse out of PVC pipe and plastic sheeting for less than \$100. APRD later offered use of the Randol Mill Park greenhouse.

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Wildscape Update continued from page 16

Propagation



Clockwise from left above, Fortunately, Molly had an extra large driveway to stage the fruits of her labor. Molly taking inventory and planning additional harvests. Still taking inventory and making plans, now at the Randol Mill Park greenhouse. Every year, volunteers propagated enough plants for the wildscape and still had plenty to sell.



You could usually find Molly in the wildscape

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Below left, Molly on one of her planning walkthroughs. Right, A volunteer workday at the wildscape.



Wildscape Update continued from page 17

2003 Molly Hollar Wildscape name becomes official

On February 11, Arlington City Council created the Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park. This was the culmination of weeks of secret efforts by ACC members, Parks Department, the Parks Board, and a number of people who took the time to write letters in support of this overdue idea. Bob Korman, Arlington Parks Board chair, announced the name at Molly's 75th birthday party, and Molly gave a calm speech. ("It's not me, it's all the other wonderful people.") Later, when she learned it was real, she finally became properly shocked.

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Above from left, Donna Piercy, Molly, Mary Turner, Dennis Kiley, John O'Malley, Bob Korman. Below left, Many of Molly's fans came to celebrate. Right, Molly with her family and Rosa Finsley (on Molly's left).



Wildscape Update continued from page 18

Wildscape's new name ceremony was a big event

Event speakers from left, Pete Jamieson, APRD director; Katherine Wilemon, city councilwoman; Glen Troutman, Parks Board member; and Julia Burgen. Right, possibly Molly's number one fan, John Davis, TPWD urban biologist.



Spreading the word

Molly was eager to spread the word about how people can make their own yards into a wildlife habitat to encourage birds, butterflies and other wildlife. She worked tables at Earth Day events, spoke to garden groups and even the Wildflower Center in Austin. And of course, she took children and adults on interpretive tours through the wildscape. Groups included elementary school classes (Walk on the Wildside), Master Naturalist classes, Native Plant Society of Texas, APRD employees, and garden clubs.

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Left, One of Molly's favorite group tours was the Walk on the Wildside. Here she is introducing this class to making seed balls. Right, Molly and Ruth Kinler working at Earth Day at the wildscape in 2007.



Wildscape Update continued from page 19

Public Recognition

Molly never sought recognition — it made her uncomfortable — but it came to her all the same. Here's a sampling of awards and recognition she received.

- 1997, Sally Wasowski featured Molly's naturalistic garden in her book, *Native Texas Gardens: Maximum Beauty, Minimum Upkeep*.
- 1999, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Certificate of Appreciation for personal commitment to land stewardship for fish and wildlife conservation
- 1999, 2012 Arlington Mayor Urban Design Awards. Large-scale landscaping wins for both the wildscape and for Susan Hollar's office designed by Molly
- 2006, Texas Recreation and Parks Society Individual Award
- 2002 Native Plant Society of Texas Nancy Benedict Memorial Award for conservation for her dedication and contribution in developing the Wildscape. The award is given for acts of conservation or public service in the field of Texas native plants.
- 2007 The Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council Volunteer of the Year and Gold Leaf Award
- 2012 Keep Texas Beautiful award winner - Molly Hollar Wildscape
- 2015 Keep Texas Beautiful OP Schnabel Lifetime Achievement
- 2016 4th of July parade Grand Marshal. Said Kevin Donovan, 4th of July Association Executive Board, "Her efforts and dedication over the past 20-plus years represent all those who work to keep Arlington beautiful."

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Left, Cochair Mike McCorkhill, Molly, and Pete Jamieson at Arlington Mayor's Urban Awards ceremony.

Right, Everybody's grand marshal riding in the 2016 4th of July parade

Wildscape Update continued from page 21

A celebration of our Molly



A few of Molly's friends and fans celebrate at her retirement party in 2017. Paul Knudsen photo.

Remembering Molly

From Molly's obituary: Molly Ann Pinkston Hollar, 95, of Arlington Texas, passed away peacefully in her home at Trinity Terrace, January 17th 2024, with her family. She was born in Lubbock Texas on February 26th, 1928, to the late Louis and Mary Pinkston. She graduated from Vernon High School, and attended Texas Tech University, where she met and married James Lee Hollar, in Vernon Texas.

Soon after marriage, they moved to Borger Texas, and over the next 14 years, had 6 children.

After her children were grown, she spearheaded the creation of the Wildscape at Veteran's Park, which now bears her name, The Molly Hollar Wildscape. She worked tirelessly, leading volunteers in the installation and maintenance of native plants on 5 acres. The wildscape serves as a demonstration for the community in the use of native plants, organic gardening methods, and water conservation. She received numerous awards from local, state, and federal conservation organizations. Her passion through all of these endeavors, was to leave the world a better place, now, and for future generations.

Celebration of Life service will be held at Meadowbrook Recreation Center, in Arlington, 1400 Dugan, at 2 pm, February 3rd. All are welcome, dress casually.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Friends of the Molly Hollar Wildscape, 1015 Glenwick Ln, Arlington, TX 76012 or at [Donate to Friends of the Molly Hollar Wildscape](#)

Ann Knudsen

A little over 30 years ago I came across a beautiful yard full of spring wildflowers buzzing with life. I thought, "I have to bring Mama by to see it." And she loved it.

Soon after, while volunteering at my daughter's elementary school for Hill's Happy Habitat courtyard project, I met Molly. That's when I found out that we were admiring her yard. And so began our lifelong friendship. I also learned about another project that was in the planning stages, the wildscape.

I vowed to be part of it when I could. I later learned Molly had volunteers come to her house to propagate plants for the wildscape project. Well, this was right up Mama's alley. Besides enjoying growing plants, I knew Mama and Molly would hit it off with so much in common, both being Mother Earth types. Sure enough, they did.

So not only am I beyond grateful for Molly having been a huge part in changing my own life, I am grateful for her bringing so much meaning, joy and purpose into my mother's life.

Molly, may you and Mama be running through the wilderness in the great beyond.

Danny Kocurek

Can I just say Molly was the most kind, inspiring, and radical person I have ever known?

Josephine Keeney

I met Molly in 2005 after I retired from my wedding apparel business. I was looking for something meaningful to do with my spare time. I had read about Texas Wildscapes from Texas Parks and Wildlife. One day Frank and I went to Veterans Park, and there was Molly gathering seed with long white hair blowing in the wind. I told Frank, I want to work with her, and he said, well go ask her.

So I introduced myself and asked her if I could work with her, and she said of course, everyone is welcome.

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Remembering Molly continued from page 22

That is how my involvement in conservation started. At Molly's suggestion, I joined the Master Naturalists, the Native Plant Society and Arlington Conservation Council. One year later Molly gave me the job of running the greenhouse, where we grow native plants for the wildscape and also for our annual plant sale to provide native plants and educate the public about the importance of native plants for our wildlife, especially the pollinators.

Molly had a wonderful welcoming spirit, she welcomed everyone and made us feel appreciated at whatever job we were able to do. She was a great caring leader, and made everyone feel special. We all loved her and will never forget her.

Thank you, Molly, for being you, and for all the good you have done in this world.

Donna Piercy

My association with Molly Hollar began about 1995 when the Arlington Conservation Council reorganized under Julia Burgen's leadership. What a phenomenal person and what a great group of people. After ground was broken for the Wildscape Garden Phase II in 1999, it was a joy to help Molly and the gang lay the groundwork for the garden and plant natives through the next few years.

Molly was always optimistic, generous with her time and knowledge, and energetic. She had hundreds of plants under her wing at home and at the wildscape, and dozens of people. What a hard-working and warm-hearted person!

Natives did not take up all her time, though. She was eager to address air quality issues as well. She and I launched a plan in 2006 to supply orange and red post cards to people to send to Rep. Joe Barton on orange and red ozone days. As you may remember, Joe Barton worked hand in hand with the major polluters and wouldn't consider regulations to curb the pollution. She spent quite a few hours making the

cards, addressing, and distributing them. She was a great partner.

Molly has and will continue to influence me and make me a better person.

JoAnn Collins

I owe a big debt to ACC. I was the science liaison and you guys religiously sent newsletters to me! One of them discussed a field trip to the New York Prairie. That's where I met Jan Miller and she hooked me up with a Master Naturalist and Master Gardener who is still in charge of the garden I started at Fitzgerald which happens to be really close to the NY Prairie! During this time I also heard of Molly and the wildscape. How I wish I had gotten on board then, but I had recently married a man with two kids so I didn't have much free time. From that time until becoming a master naturalist I have heard of the legendary Molly Hollar. I finally got a chance to volunteer there with my child many years later. I have never met a person so genuinely interested in a person they had just met. She treated my child, young at the time, with grace and remembered everything we talked about! It is my regret that I didn't take the time to seek her out after she lost her independence. Her space will be empty, but she has filled it with many more Mollies, each fulfilling their own niche in our conservation world!

Marylee Thomason

Remember the Forks Over Knives luncheons that Molly initiated? We gathered to get educated about the benefits of a "plant based" diet. I embraced it fully and my itchy psoriasis disappeared completely. Other more private things flowed better too.

Molly not only campaigned for a vegetarian diet and dark chocolate, but lived it. If you went to her condo by Randol Mill Park, she offered pieces of dark

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Remembering Molly continued from page 23

candy bars. And when a sausage roll was offered at some wildscape gathering, she refused one, saying, “I wouldn’t put something like that in my mouth.” Strong words backed by conviction.

She changed my life. Anyone who knew her can tell stories about how “super” (Molly’s favorite word) that was.

Hester Schwarzer

I remember Molly from trips to wildflower classes in Austin, attendance at state Naturalist and Native Plant meetings (one at which Molly received one of the first 10,000-hour volunteer recognition pins), and the many workdays at the wildscape. Every activity became an opportunity for Molly to share her knowledge and passion about plant life. She became my mentor and my friend forever to be cherished as an example of a life well lived and remembered with fondness.

Carol Marcotte

Molly was making a life change. She was downsizing from her beloved home on the lake. I was honored to serve as her realtor. Molly and I worked together on purchasing a garden home across the street from Randol Mill Park.

And, when the time came for her to sell the garden home, she asked me again to represent her as her realtor. I was thrilled. Working with her on a personal level is one of my most memorable career experiences.

Volunteering alongside Molly Hollar at the wildscape beginning in 2014 taught me a deeper love of the world around me. Thank you, Molly, for being Molly.

Dawn Hancock

Unknown to many of Molly’s friends, Molly was not only a gardener par excellence, but she was also a pretty good athlete. This is how I know: Shortly

after meeting Molly, she and I worked overly late at the greenhouse. Upon leaving we found ourselves locked in by the parks department personnel. What to do? No problem. We found crates very handy, pulled them to the very high fence, scampered up and over the fence. No one else was ever to know about this, but now you do. Good-bye dear Molly, gardener, athlete, and kind friend.

Jose Martinez

Molly used to say, “We come here for the camaraderie as well as the work.”

Heather Dowell

Molly Hollar was, is, and will always be my mentor. I was blessed to meet Molly one day while working for the Arlington Parks Department. She was small in stature but mighty in moxie, a human being whose passion, kindness, wisdom, and generosity billowed off her like the early morning fog floating across a lake. She was infectious, people were drawn to her; as I quickly became. A smile that could light up a prairie and a heart as big as a Sequoia, she was the definition of a servant leader! I am beyond thankful for the day I met Molly; she was meant to be forever in my life. My daughter shares the same birthdate eighty years apart. If that’s not meant to be, I don’t know what is. I saved a voicemail Molly left me on April, 12, 2023 that I listen to when I need inspiration, a loving voice and faith in humanity. Thank you for being Molly and sharing yourself with us all. I am eternally grateful to have walked beside you for a moment on this earth.

Michelle Villafranca

I am very saddened to learn of Molly’s passing. She was the person who really opened my eyes up to the negative impact of constant, pervasive mowing & lack of native plants in urban landscapes. She gave me a wonderful book called *Requiem for a Lawnmower*.

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Remembering Molly continued from page 24

I appreciated this book so much that I have gifted copies to others over the years. I met with her long ago to learn about the greenhouse operations, the wildscape, & the volunteer program. I was developing a similar program at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR) & my field trip to visit with Molly, along with her mentorship, helped kick off the FWNCR program. Molly influenced & mentored so many people. She leaves a legacy for generations in Arlington & DFW.

Zachary Chapman

I am deeply saddened to hear the news of Molly Hollar's passing. I didn't know her that well or that long. Yet she did help me in many ways when I became a Texas Master Naturalist. It was back when I first began. I helped out at the Molly Hollar Wildscape quite a bit and just hearing her talk about her wildscape was so inspiring.

I had come out to the wildscape a lot as a kid. I would walk the trails unknowing of who had put them here. I am happy to have crossed paths with her. Her spirit will live on in the forest she saved. She poured her heart and soul into the wildscape and made it a better place to teach others about wildlife in a park that is surrounded by urban landscape. Her passion is felt in every branch, stream, and flower within the wildscape. Her love for nature is seen in all of the volunteers who work alongside her.

She was a real nature warrior and she will always be a guiding light to all who come to the wildscape. This was at one of our general meetings where our paths crossed. This was I think the last time we met. She was always so kind and fun to talk to. She made me laugh but she also helped shape me when I first jumped on this whole nature thing. How can you forget someone like her? Her loss is sad, but we must carry on what she began. She will be deeply missed.

May you rest in peace my sweet and dear friend. We will lead by your examples as we educate future

generations at the place that is your little slice of nature.

Thank you for being a friend and thanks for the life lessons.

Sam Kieschnick

Molly Hollar leaves a tremendous legacy in North Central Texas. Her fingerprints are throughout the metroplex — she had a meaningful impact on me as I got to know her and learn all about her work and dedication in Arlington. Her namesake wildscape is a magnificent testament to Molly's service, not just to the naturalist community, but also to the countless organisms that seek out this area as a refuge. The quote will be used a lot, but I think it perfectly embodies Molly: The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit. Molly will be greatly missed, but her legacy provides so many future generations hope!

Sandy Fountain

Before I met Molly, I had heard of her. I thought she was a celebrity. Then I saw her at a conference. I didn't get to talk to her that day, but I truly thought I had seen a celebrity!

In 2007, I became a Cross Timbers Master Naturalist. The last night of class, she came and gave a presentation about the wildscape to attract new volunteers. Based on her presentation, I decided to give it a go. The day I showed up, she met me at the front of the park and welcomed me. She made me feel very special and valued. I had a lot of fun volunteering there for many years. Molly called me her Bluebird expert. It always made me smile. Molly was very agile up into her 80s. I once saw her climb over a wooden fence.

We often headed to Mijo's for lunch after we finished working. I remember sitting and talking with her for hours. She loved to talk about the importance of

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Remembering Molly continued from page 25

native plants. She was also very passionate about eating healthy. Talking with Molly was always interesting. I even followed her to Whole Foods one time after lunch so she could show me her favorite vegetarian items.

On another occasion, it started raining while we were at Mijos's. Molly, Ann Knudsen and I put on rain gear and headed back to the wildscape so that we could walk along the running creek and view a little waterfall. It was a magical experience that I will always treasure.

I also remember going to the wildscape to pull invasive privet to celebrate her birthday. That was so typical of Molly. She didn't want gifts; she wanted the privet gone!

Molly was a lot of fun at the Master Naturalist conferences as well. Mo Ranch was our favorite conference venue. It was such an adventure. I remember hanging out with her at the nightly bonfire by the river. We huddled by the fire for warmth while George McBride played his accordion for our entertainment. Molly loved visiting with her friends as well as meeting new people at the conferences.

Marian Hiler

From the moment I met Molly, she made me feel special. Even though it didn't take long to learn she told everyone, "You're the best!" I still felt like I was. Certainly, my best around her. That was one of her many gifts. She was generous with those gifts. I remember one July 3, she, my sister Ann Knudsen, and I stayed up all night to finish the skirts for ACC's July 4th float. It was only a two-person job, but she stayed through break of day to cheer us on. I'm sure it made the difference. That float won 1st prize. After we delivered the skirts on parade day, Molly treated Ann and me to breakfast in lieu of marching our tired bodies in the parade. Molly was as good as they get. *She was the best!*

From the ACC Facebook Discussion Group:

John Snowden

Very much remembering Molly & treasuring those good times! I'm betting she went right up to God & asked if she could start a heavenly native plant garden!

Sue Phillips

Molly was a class act and Arlington is a better city because of her contributions.

Kim Clemons

What a blessing she was to us and the natural world here and beyond. I'm so glad I knew her.

Cheryl Taylor-West

Sorry to hear this....

Mike McCorkhill

I will miss our champion of champions. She taught us all so much.

Suzanne Allen Tuttle

She was amazing, my eco-hero. She made our world a better place.

Laurie H. Ackermann

Fly, Molly, Fly. You have made this world a better place. My heart is heavy, but consider myself so lucky to have met her.

Sheri Capehart

She was a force of and for nature. She will be missed by many.

Shirley Patterson

Forever grateful for her leadership and vision for Natural Areas!

Patricia Burrow Norris

Larry spoke of her so often. I'm certain he was among those who greeted her when she arrived in Heaven above. Condolences to all who knew and loved her.

Donna Ressler

She influenced an entire city and inspired so many to elevate our environment.

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Remembering Molly continued from page 26

Amy Martin

Molly changed minds and opened hearts. Her legacy remains.

Dale Denton

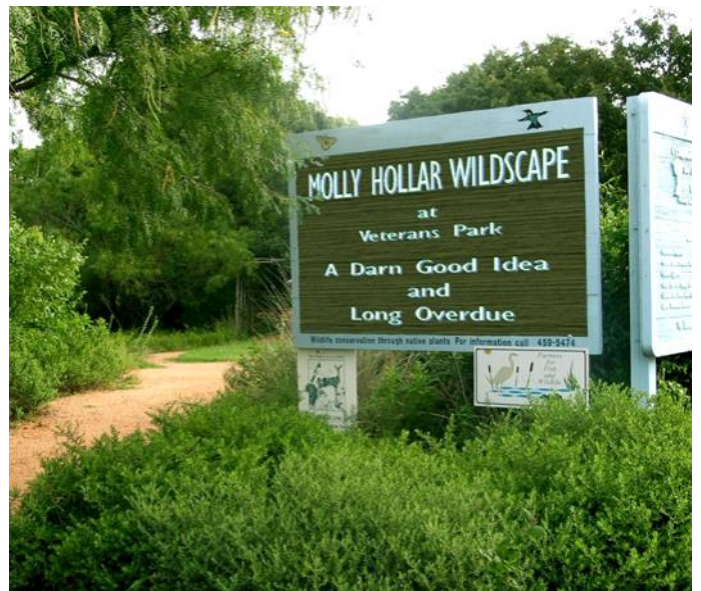
I'd been thinking about her lately. A wonderful person. She will be missed.

Liz Moyer

Truly a giant in our field. To what address should donations be sent?

Grace Darling

Friends of the Molly Hollar Wildscape, 1015 Glenwick Lane, Arlington TX 76012-4404, or online: [HERE](#).



From the Wildscape, a Love Letter Ann Trenton

A tribute to Molly Hollar on her 2017 retirement from the day-to-day leadership of the Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park in Arlington, Texas. Eloquently written by Ann Trenton and movingly performed by John Dycus. [Find his reading here.](#)

My Molly Hollar, I knew this moment would come. You always said that one day you'd retire and we would have less time together. But my, oh my, My Molly, we are inseparable.

Remember in the early '90s, you and your friends from the Arlington Conservation Council, the Native Plant Society and the Arlington Organic Garden Club were looking for me. You wanted to grace the planet, grace Arlington, with a gift of renewal, restoration and inspiration. You found me, a sad, lonely afterthought of land at Veterans Park overrun with bermuda grass.

But my lifeless state did not blind you to my promise, and you and your friends determined to transform me into a wonder, a wildscape. I would shine with biodiversity. All manner of life would thrive here. With you, I would recapture and reinvent my native habitat.

With your friends, you applied for and received a small sum to begin the efforts. You were tireless. Researching, reading, researching more. You read every book, went to every conference, consulted all the experts to be sure I would fulfill my potential in every way.

Each day you came, unless you were away visiting family or learning something you could bring back to me. You would come early, perhaps leave for lunch, preferably with a friend or two, and return in the afternoon. Often others would come early,

too, bringing plants and ready to dig or weed or water. You knew every plant. You knew where each would go.

Not every project was initially successful. Some areas were stubborn and had to be worked and reworked, over and over again. I couldn't keep track of the tons of mulch spread over the years with wheelbarrow and bucket. How many times you covered me in newspapers! I think, now, 20 years later, perhaps the crew is finally freeing me from bermuda, though I still have some weeds to keep everybody busy for a while.

Lots of progress has been made exposing my ground to the sun unhindered by rampant privet. And my soil, isn't it charged with life now and getting richer!

Goodness, how you lugged around hoses all these years. You were an engineer calculating the logistics of ensuring that my plants and trees were not just watered, but watered just right to become established. A screwdriver to test moisture depth helped. And, since I've grown from one-third acre to four acres, watering has been a monumental task.

Nevertheless, I think I am at last approaching that near-sustainable state you and your friends have devotedly sought. My vegetation lives a natural cycle, of course, so thank you for the greenhouse and all the workers.

I will miss your footsteps along my woodsy paths and every inch between, My Molly. I will miss your examining eye, your ideas, your surprise and delight — with new growth, butterflies, spiders, songbirds and all.

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From the Wildscape continued from page 28

I will miss listening to you and your friends as you sat on the benches exchanging stories about families or new insights on health and longevity or research on the effects of drought and climate change. All the while, you passed around bits of fruit or nuts and seeds. You always had food and water to share.

I will miss you welcoming all the volunteers, and anyone who drifts into our wildscape, with your desire to meet, to engage and to enlighten.

Know that you are leaving me in wise, well-trained hands. I know them, I know these hands. Every volunteer who has touched me is a part of me, a part of you. I would not exist otherwise.

I thank you and all the volunteers whose lives have been enriched in this commitment to habitat restoration and a healthier planet. We are in each other's DNA. The volunteers will continue to multiply, as they have over the years, and with growing awareness.

I am ever evolving as a beautiful refuge, a living classroom, a place to work, to explore, to contemplate, to nurture.

Because of you, My Molly Hollar. Because of you.



Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

Coming Up Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 – 10 am

Led by Jim Frisinger

The Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve are hosting their 17th Great Backyard Bird Count. Come join us as we gather at 8 am in the parking lot and fan out in small groups for the two-hour count. Bring binoculars, appropriate clothing and be sure to download and use the Merlin birdsong identification app. It will help!

Checklists submitted help researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Birds of Canada learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year 555,000 citizen scientists worldwide submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird population ever recorded. Participants from 202 countries recorded 7,538 different species.

At the preserve last year 219 birds across 41 species were identified. That's tied for the second-most species counted, and the third largest count of birds here. Annoyingly for birders, fishermen had taken up spots on three sides of the Main Pond, probably suppressing the waterfowl count somewhat.

Last year we were delighted with 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.

All skill levels welcome. We all learn by birdwatching with others.



**Help us count
birds for the Great
Backyard Bird
Count**

**Join 555,000 citizen
scientists counting birds
one weekend worldwide**

Sat., Feb. 17, 8-10 a.m.
Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve
5201 S. Bowman Springs

Meet at the parking lot

Bring binoculars and wear
weather-appropriate clothing.

Download the Merlin app ahead of
time. Bird calls help IDs!

Count will be held "rain or shine."

All skill levels welcome. We all
learn by bird-watching with others.

Info: Friends of Sheri Capehart
Nature Preserve, info@SCNP.org

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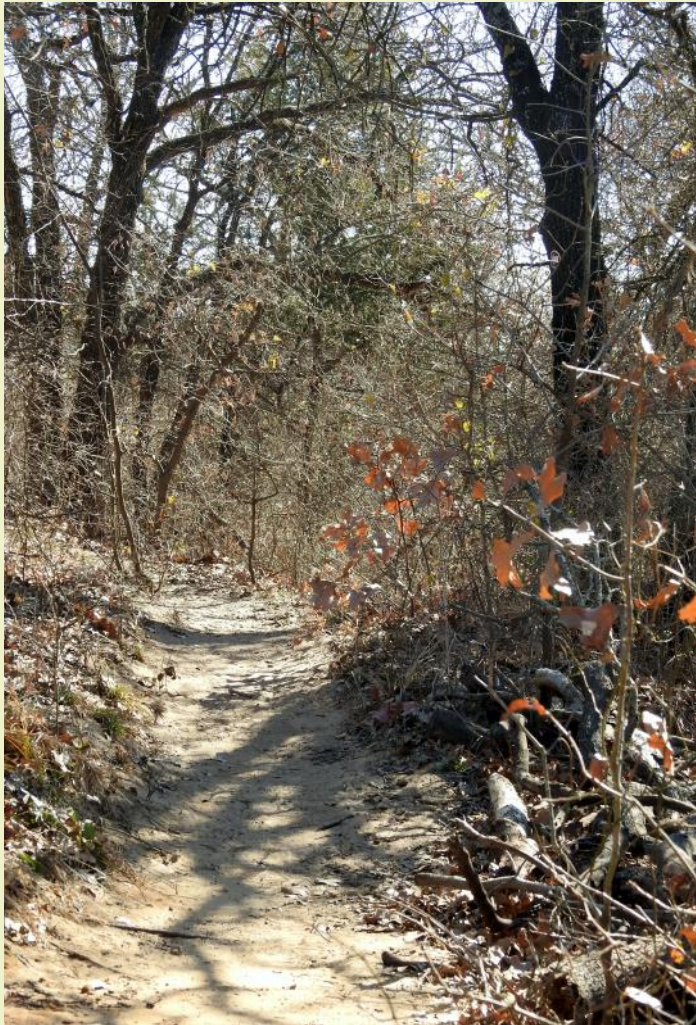
Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 30

Coming Up

Let's Explore Nature with Mindfulness and Journaling

Saturday, March 16, 2 pm

Led by Michael Smith, M.A.



We will meet at the preserve at 2:00 pm, at the north end of the parking lot (closest to the hill). After introducing mindfulness, we will climb up to the bluff and walk in several parts of the preserve. Adults and older children (over ten years) welcome. Please register at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofSCNP> for this free event.

Let's take a walk and let go of distractions and stresses. Time spent in nature benefits our mood, thinking, and health, according to many research studies. We can spend some time among the trees and grasses, breathing easily and noticing what it is like to live in the present moment.

Mindfulness involves very intentionally paying attention to our present experience, accepting it just as it is. Mindfulness also has a good track record of benefits to such things as mood and attention, and it can promote kindness and empathy. When we practice it in nature, we are likely to appreciate our surroundings as if seeing and hearing them for the first time.

We can then take a little time to reflect on what is around us and within us, writing or drawing in a

nature journal. Doing this helps us organize our thoughts, adds to our self-understanding, and may benefit our mental wellness in other ways. Bring a notebook and pen and/or pencil!

Your walk leader: Michael Smith has been licensed as a Psychological Associate for over 38 years. He is author of the forthcoming book, *Mindfulness in Texas Nature*, from Texas A&M University Press. You can find him at <https://livesinnature.com>.

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Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 31

Bridges at Last Jim Frisinger

Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve are thrilled that our long-stalled trail bridges project is now on a fast track to completion thanks to South-Point Constructors. Volunteers at the construction firm, which is building the intersection reconstruction of I-20 at U.S. 287 adjacent to the preserve, are leading the effort to build the three bridges this spring. They will span particularly wet portions of trails on the north half of the preserve. After rain periods, seeps are activated from the enormous aquifer under Kennedale Mountain. The seeps can run for weeks, creating muddy passages in the trail. In January, John Gage, environmental compliance manager for the road project, took measurements for the four-foot-wide bridges. Completion of the bridges will reduce the erosion created by social trails that bypass the muddy areas and serve as a model for future bridges elsewhere in the preserve.



Left, South-Point Constructors' John Gage takes bridge measurements. Jim Frisinger photo.

Right, Friends volunteer Rudy Arnold, Arlington Parks and Recreation's Matt King, South-Point Constructor's John Gage, Arlington Parks and Rec's Michael Debrecht, and volunteers Derek Spigener and Jim Frisinger at one bridge site toward the North Pond. Jan Miller photo.

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Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 32

No, It's an Ex-Privet Jim Frisinger text and photos

Listen up, denizens of Arlington nature preserves. Sheri Capehart just harvested the biggest, baddest privet in town. Wanna bet?

Our Third Saturday volunteers felled a giant Quihoui privet in December. Members of our crew made their own predictions of its height before the operation began. When the monster was felled and all the berries collected for disposal, the privet measured 13 feet tall. The winner: volunteer Glenn Butler.

Can any preserve beat 13 feet?

The Arlington forester has assessed the preserve's privet problem as not as serious as other natural areas in the city but rooting it out is an ongoing goal for the Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve.

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Below, Jim Domke, Annabelle Corboy, Karen Harden, Glenn Butler and Jan Miller stand before the 13-foot quihoui privet moments before its demise. Upper right, Jan Miller and Annabelle Corboy pick the berries off before felling the bush. Middle, Quihoui berries were bagged for disposal. Lower, The 13-footer's mutli-trunk base measured 9 inches wide.

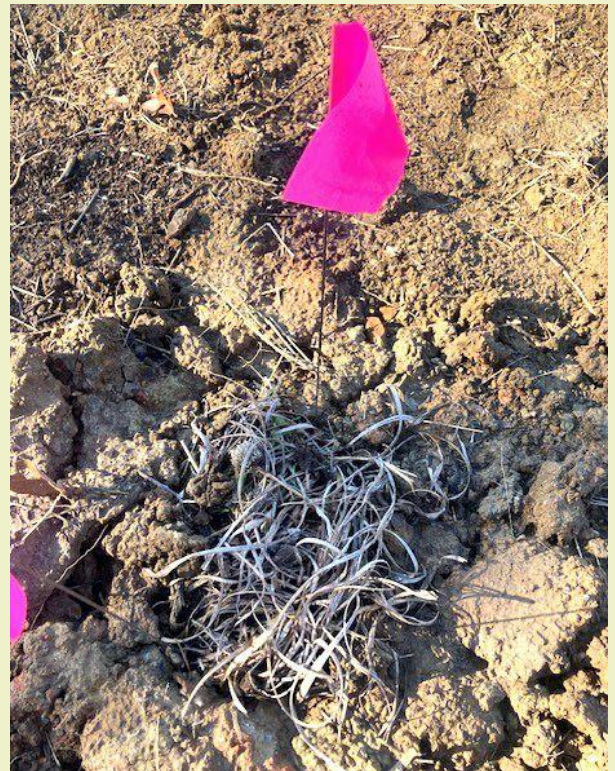


Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 33

New Home for Rescued Plants Jim Frisinger text and photos

John Snowden's discovery of a plant rescue site in Burleson has been a boon to natural areas from Arlington to Frisco. At Sheri Capehart, the most recent plantings have been large big bluestem corms in the Pollinator Meadow, and big bluestems and gayfeathers in the North Prairie. These photos show one of the two large solarization sites, which were covered by heavy cardboard all of 2023. This and other test sites are exploring different ways to eradicate invasive King Ranch Bluestem and substitute native species. They now have received some big bluestem and gayfeather plants from the Burleson site. Native grass seed will soon follow.

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Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 34

Volunteer Opportunity Jan Miller text and photos

There's a prime spot at Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve just waiting for someone's inspiration and some native plants. Could it be you? This high-visibility spot is a raised planter overlooking SCNP's feature pond near the amphitheater. It currently has one cedar elm, handsome sandstone boulders, some blanket flowers, etc. As you can see, it also has tie vine and other less-desirables that need to be managed. But it could be a great opportunity for a demonstration pollinator garden with native plants. Can you see it buzzing with native bees, wasps and butterflies? There's plenty of sun until early afternoon, with shade from late afternoon heat. Access is easy using the concrete sidewalk from the parking lot. All it needs is a native gardener's knowledge of plants, an inspired design and planting. Friends of SCNP can even assist with funding for seed and plants.



Mid-late winter is a prime time for planning, and early spring is great for planting. Would you think about it? If you'd like more information or to sign on, please contact us at info@scnpfriends.org and thanks for considering!

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Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 35

2023 Review of Nature at Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve

Using iNaturalist's "Year in Review 2023" (<https://www.inaturalist.org/stats/2023>) as inspiration, we've taken a look at what happened at SCNP during 2023, as seen through iNaturalist Observations. To check out all the 2023 Observations at the Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve, click [here](#).

2,431

OBSERVATIONS

669

SPECIES

373

IDENTIFIERS

70

OBSERVERS

First observation of 2023 - made by drawntoscales on January 1st.
[Silverleaf Nightshade](#) ([Solanum elaeagnifolium](#))



Last observation of 2023 – made by drawntoscales on December 30.
[Lesser Scaup](#) ([Aythya affinis](#))



Below are our top observers for 2023:

Rank	iNaturalist ID	Name	# Observations	# Species
1	charley	Charley Amos	313	170
2	sambiology	Sam Kieschnick	310	255
3	joshmols	Jim Frisinger	195	150
4	apcorboy	Annabelle Corboy	142	91
5	drawntoscales	Michael Smith	137	85
6	brentano	Brent Franklin	134	89
7	cindylcobb5	Cindy Larson Cobb	109	82
8	elizrose	Elizabeth Rosenauer	100	76
9	squaylei2000	Jeff Quayle	73	53
10	post oak	Jan Miller	54	43

Blackland Prairie Preserve Guy Random



*Oh my, it's gilgai,
And they're beautiful all wet.
Should be full of frogs.
Or better, bison
Pausing to wet their whistle
as they march on by.*



ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships are good for one year, renewable each January. Your dues go directly to our public education efforts.

Membership Information

Name _____	First-year member \$10	
Address _____	Individual \$15	New Member ☐
_____	Family \$25	
Phone _____	Supporting \$40	Renewing member ☐
Email _____	Sponsor \$100	
	Lifetime Individual \$250	
	Other \$ _____	

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216. Or pay via PayPal or credit card [HERE](#). 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 Arlington, TX 76004-0216

February Zoom Meeting



**Native Trees as
Wildlife Habitat**

Hester Schwarzer
 Naturalist & retired teacher

7 pm Wed, Feb 7, 2024

Zoom meeting hosted by
 Arlington Conservation Council

See pages 2 and 6 for more on this presentation.