

ARLINGTON  
CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL

# POST OAK

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NOVEMBER 2024



PRAIRIE ROBBER FLY • MOLLY HOLLAR WILDSCAPE • ANN KNUDSEN PHOTO

## November Zoom Meeting



### What I learned in South Africa: climate adaptations for Texas plants

**Laura Miller**

County Extension Agent  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**7 pm Wed, Nov 6, 2024**

Zoom meeting hosted by  
Arlington Conservation Council

**Read more about this program on page 5**

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88368371595>**

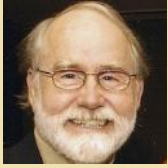
**For assistance accessing the meeting, contact Frank Keeney,  
[webmaster@acctexas.org](mailto:webmaster@acctexas.org)**

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

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## From the President Dick Schoech



My November message is simple.

**VOTE** as if our environment  
depends on it  
*because it does*



### 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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## It's Time to Pay Your Dues (See Last Page)



## Our November Program

### What I learned in South Africa: Climate adaptations for Texas plants

Laura Miller approaches each place she visits with a sense of wonder, excited by what she can learn and apply to her life. Earlier this year she attended the International Plant Propagators' Society Annual Conference in South Africa, and she will bring that wonder and fresh insights to her presentation at ACC's November meeting. She will focus on South Africa's climate and plant communities and their similarities to our North Central Texas ecosystems.

Laura, as the Texas A&M AgriLife Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent for Tarrant County, provides continuing education and problem-solving services to anyone trying to earn a living in horticulture, from green industry professionals to fruit, vegetable, and ornamental plant growers. Prior to taking the job in March 2008, she was a University of Florida/IFAS Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent for seven years.

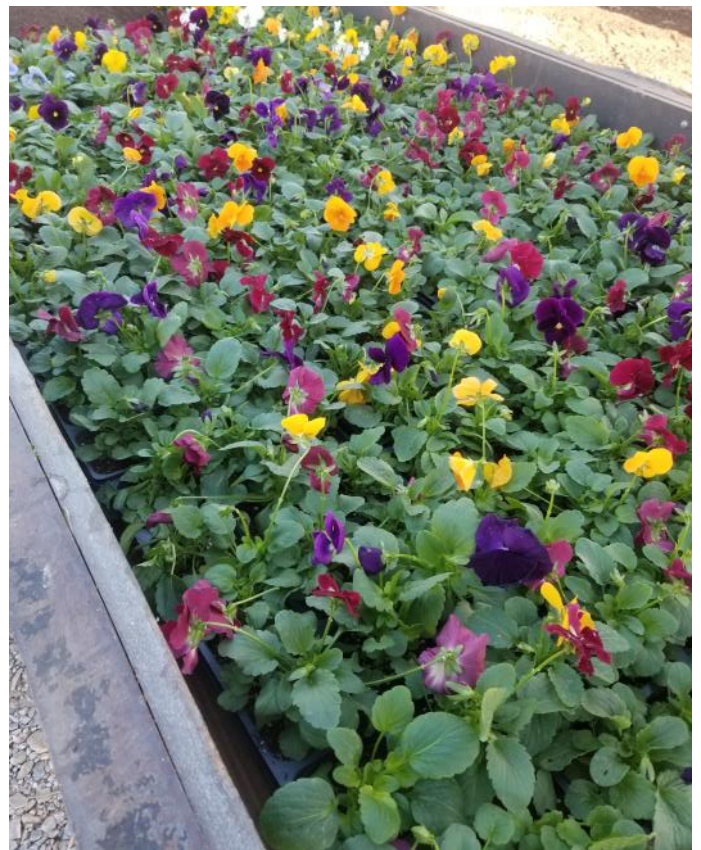
A sixth-generation Texan, she is a graduate of Eagle Pass High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in horticulture and a Master of Education in agricultural education from Texas A&M University in College Station. She is an ISA Certified Arborist, a Texas Certified Nursery Professional, and a Texas Department of Agriculture licensed pesticide applicator, and she serves on the boards of Region V of the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council, and the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America as a delegate to the International Board.

## Color all Winter!

### Semi-Annual Seasonal Color Rant, Short Version

**Big start:** hundreds of dollars, dozens of man-hours planting, watering, then digging up, bagging, and carrying them away.

**Big finish:** trash, or at best, compost pile.



## Bits & Pieces

### The Terse Treehugger



Thought this was some dumb quiz.

But it's nature, green on green.

Fork-tailed bush katydid.

Sure, I knew that.

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

### Yes, Leaves Again: Leave 'Em



The message is so simple: Dead leaves are winter habitat for many butterflies and other tiny creatures. Read [this](#) for a few quick examples. The message has expanded to fall garden cleanup generally. Just be kind and leave everything.



American beautyberry.

### A Beautiful Fungus Among Us



A handsome example of *Inocutis dryophila*, or Oak bracket, a fungus described as weakly parasitic, feeding on the heartwood of trees. Found almost always on oaks in much of the country. Thanks to Dick Schoech, who found this one at Fossil Hill.

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



## ACC Trees



Several months ago, some treehuggers dragged Guy Random (He took the picture.) to a place in North Arlington where developers had already been given the official blessing to cut the mostly scattered trees and build some boring thing. Not an inspiring site: huge gas station across a big, busy street, medical and insurance offices next door, and this large, lonely lot, just asking for trouble. Another lost cause, but the Cardinals, Blue jays, Red-bellied woodpeckers, and Fox squirrels hadn't seen the memo yet.

It's easier down at the Blackland Prairie Preserve. You see those dozens of repeatedly mowed hackberry and elm sprouts and think how good it would be if every single one were magically vaporized. But not here in the CrossTimbers. All these woody things pumping out oxygen and cleaning the air. And a few standing as inspiration, oblivious to traffic noise, exhaust fumes, and even insurance office architecture.

This month's heritage tree is one twisted survivor — has it been cut yet? — that won't leave you alone. It's those branches, of course. And maybe its age. 300 years? Was it alive with Vivaldi and Bach? (Too pretentious?) 500 years? Did it hear about Pizarro behaving badly in Colombia? This post oak, if it's still here, must be tired and may be ready for a bright future in the chipped wood industry.



## We're **Still** Doing Something Big

The ACC-UTA Endowment — established to support future environmentalists, promote environmental integrity and strengthen climate resilience — is a success!

Thanks to you, it has awarded a scholarship each of the last two years. Watch one awardee's presentation of his research [here](#).

And it is getting bigger. This year it will award a \$1,000 scholarship and a \$3,000 research grant.

Please help the endowment make an even greater impact benefitting even more students. Keep it growing.

*continued on page 9*

### ACC-UTA Endowment

**For good.**

**Forever.**

**[Donate here.](#)**



## We're **Still** Doing Something Big continued from page 8

Architecture major Knowme Tasfia has accepted the ACC endowment's Summer 2024 research award.

### Research Project:

Knowme is passionate about building resilient and environmentally conscious communities and studies sustainable urban planning. Her project is focused on creating child-friendly communities amid the busy landscapes of metropolitan places through the study of the complex, vital roles that nonprofits play in both influencing urban landscaping and advancing children's well-being in the City of Dallas. Such child-friendly communities will promote the preservation of urban ecosystems and biodiversity through the conservation of green spaces, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, and nature-centric design.

With the help of the ACC award, Knowme plans to diversify her interdisciplinary research in natural resource conservation and hopes to assist the City of Arlington in the larger conversation on sustainable urban planning and environmental preservation. She acknowledges the award as a catalyst for networking and collaboration, which will provide further opportunities to work with a larger variety of stakeholders, establish alliances, and promote collaborative effort toward the creation of a sustainable future. She hopes to make a real impact on Arlington's physical landscape by promoting a culture of environmental stewardship among its citizens through research projects that prioritize the preservation of natural resources, the advancement of sustainable practices, and the improvement of urban green spaces. She wants to create a connection between academics and practice by actively participating in local communities, advocating sustainable policies, and sharing research findings.

## ACC-UTA Endowment

**For good.**

**Forever.**

**[Donate here.](#)**



# Question Corner John Darling

Q: This simple question demands a simple answer: Why can't Arlington ban single-use plastic bags?

A: The Big Brain Department tells me to forget it. The Death Star bill (HB2127) won't let us create a patchwork of local laws that would disturb Texas tranquility. But then she's reading me that boring 2127 legal stuff, and this looks like an actual loophole:

(3) does not, except as expressly prohibited by this Act, affect the authority of a municipality to adopt, enforce, or maintain an ordinance or rule that relates to the control, care, management, welfare, or health and safety of animals;

Are those bags unhealthy for animals? Just ask any dead sea turtle. Let's find some rabid lawyers and get after it! But wait, surely the smart people in Denton would have used this to resurrect their banned bag ban. Maybe that's too easy. So all I have is a couple of good web sites to keep you fired up: [this one](#) and [this one](#). Next!



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Hours 10 - 6 Mon - Sat,  
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From Dick Schoech: a very green anole

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

**John DYCUS**

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## The Page with No Name

### Report from the field

Ivan Querido

*It's a first: Our special field correspondent crouching in the dank hallway of our editorial wing, quietly weeping whenever he thinks we're not looking. So what is it this time? Aw, shuddup. I got something in my eye, okay? But look here. I been thinking about this dead tree. You know what it is? The last Pecan on Pecan Street, that's what. At least of the ones that somebody planted in all the front yards, maybe in the '50s. Won't matter on this side of the street. It'll all be parking lots or something after the last treehuggers on the street are put away for their own good. Still, kinda sad.*



### 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.

©2023 John I. Blair, 9/16/2023

## My Nature Notebook

### Trash bugs

We were so bored and there was yelling so stupid and we went outside to play in the Creepy Old Guy's yard. He doesn't want us there but we don't care. His is much funner than ours because it's kind of a huge mess. He saw us but he was so excited

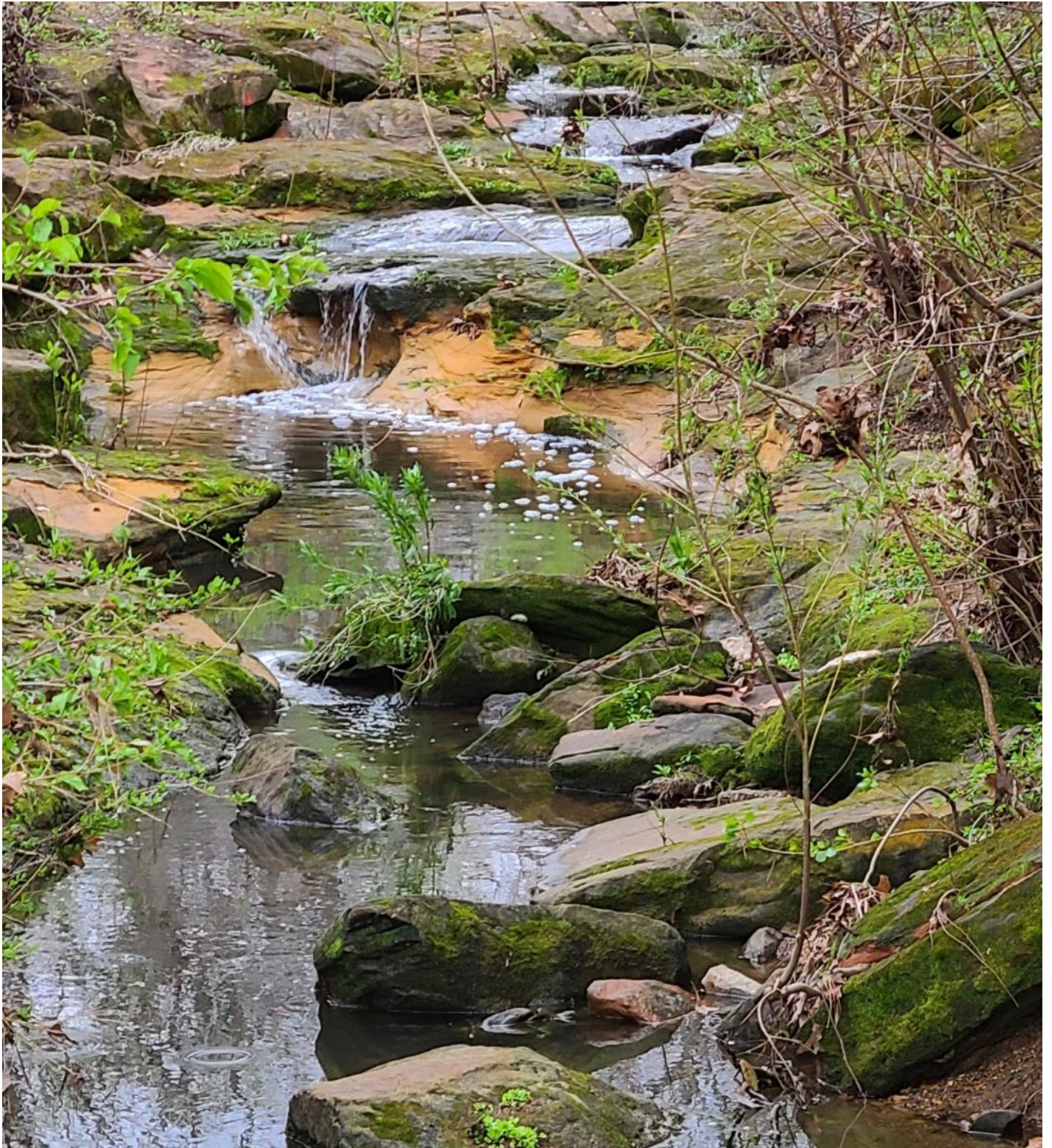
taking pictures of teeny tiny things he forgot to be mad. He was looking at trash bugs. Oh yeah, trash bugs! We had to promise to look up camouflage so we could see his pictures and they were all blurry but still sort of cool because you could see creepy tiny monster legs. He said they were young green lacewings and we're supposed to learn about them too. Sure we will. But the good part is they stick the bodies of stuff they eat all over themselves. That sounds like fun so we're gonna try it at supper.



Dick Schoech photo. But he's NOT the C.O.G.

## Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

We're taking a little break this month, but you'll hear from us again soon. Meanwhile, here's the editor's favorite Randol Mill Park photo by Carol Marcotte.



## Some Mostly October Moths at the House John Darling



*Above from left, Laudable arches, Arcigera flower moth, Black-bordered lemon moth. Below, Parthenice tiger moth, Southern emerald, Zebra conchylodes. Bottom, Pictured lichen moth, the same moth taking off.*



## Keeping Up With Technology – Microgrids Grace Darling

### Microgrids

[Annotated from [MicrogridKnowledge.com/data-center/](https://MicrogridKnowledge.com/data-center/), 3/18/24, 4/19/24; [SupermarketNews.com](https://SupermarketNews.com), 7/25/24; [TheHill.com](https://TheHill.com), 11/08/23; [tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/winners/teea-winners-2018/erock](https://tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/winners/teea-winners-2018/erock); <https://electricityplans.com/microgrid/>; <https://unisonenergy.com/resources/blog/powering-texas-microgrids/>

*Definition:* A microgrid is a self-sufficient energy system that serves a discrete geographic footprint, such as a college campus, hospital complex, business center or neighborhood.

Modern microgrids not only produce and distribute one or more kinds of consumer energy (from solar panels, wind turbines, combined heat and power generators) but also can store the produced energy in batteries to be used on demand — all through sophisticated software and control systems. A microgrid is efficient because:

- It is **local**, meaning it creates energy for nearby customers. This distinguishes microgrids from the kind of large centralized grids that have provided most of our electricity for the last century. Central grids push electricity from power plants over long distances via transmission and distribution lines, and as much as **8% to 15%** of that electricity dissipates in transit. In contrast, a microgrid generates power close to those it serves; the generators are near or within the building, or in the case of solar panels, on the roof.

- It can **disconnect from the central grid and operate independently — islanding** — which allows it to supply power to its customers when the power grid fails. In the US, and particularly in Texas, the central grid is especially prone to outages because of its sheer size and interconnectedness; by islanding, a microgrid escapes such cascading grid failures. While microgrids can run independently,

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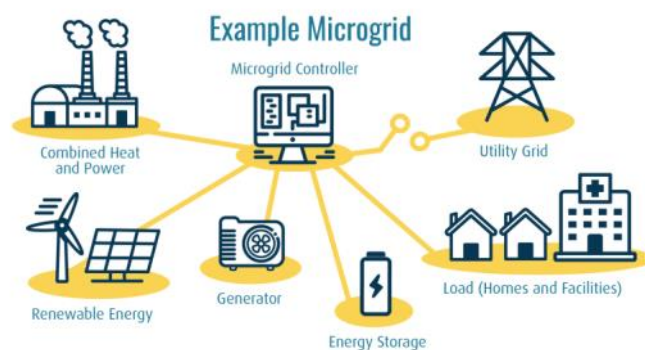
A microgrid example

## Keeping Up continued from page 15

most of the time they do not (unless they are located in a remote area where there is no central grid or an unreliable one). Instead, microgrids typically remain connected to the central grid. As long as the central grid is operating normally, the two function in a kind of symbiotic relationship.

•**It is intelligent.** Run by the microgrid controller, it can manage the generators, batteries, and nearby building energy systems with a high degree of sophistication. The controller orchestrates multiple resources to meet the energy goals established by the microgrid's customers: lowest prices, cleanest energy, greatest electric reliability, or some other outcome. The controller achieves these goals by increasing or decreasing use of any of the microgrid's resources for maximum effect. For example, an advanced controller can track real-time changes in the power prices on the central grid. (Wholesale electricity prices fluctuate constantly based on electricity supply and demand.) If energy prices are inexpensive at any point, it may choose to buy power from the central grid to serve its customers, rather than use energy from, say, its own solar panels. The microgrid's solar panels could instead charge its battery systems. Later in the day, when grid power becomes expensive, the microgrid may discharge its batteries rather than use grid power.

Microgrids may contain various energy resources — combined heat and power, wind and solar power, natural gas, reciprocating engine generators, fuel cells — that add even greater reliability, complexity, and nuance to these networks. Working together via complex algorithms, the microgrid's resources create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts and drive system performance to a level of efficiency none could do alone. All of this orchestration is managed in near-instantaneous fashion without human intervention.



### Another microgrid example

So what is the downside? Not a deterrent, but more what a microgrid **is not**: A simple distributed energy system, such as rooftop solar panels, is not a microgrid — the key difference being that a microgrid will keep the power flowing when the central grid fails, while a solar panel alone will not. Many homeowners with solar panels are unaware of this fact and are surprised that they lose power during a grid outage. Simple backup generators also are not microgrids. Such systems are only employed in emergencies; microgrids operate 24/7/365 managing and supplying energy to their customers.

### Past, Present, and Future

Microgrids have been around for decades, but until recently were used largely by college campuses and the military. Of the 692 microgrids in the United States, most are concentrated in seven states: Alaska, California, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Oklahoma, and Texas. Though the total number of microgrids is currently small, interest in microgrids is growing because of their ability to incorporate renewable energy sources and sustain electricity service during natural disasters. The pace of installation has picked up and is expected to grow dramatically as [distributed energy prices](#) drop and worries heighten about electric reliability due to

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## Keeping Up continued from page 16

severe storms, cyberattacks, and other threats. To increase deployment, a clear legal framework is needed to define a microgrid and set forth the rights and obligations of the microgrid owner\* with respect to customers and the larger utility grid operator.

In Texas, voters last November approved Proposition 7, a constitutional amendment to create a Texas Energy Fund to finance low-interest loans for new gas power plants. Many critics slammed the \$10 billion plan as a giveaway to the fossil fuel industry that might not do much to improve reliability, but the Houston Chronicle advised Texans to “hold your nose” and vote for the ballot measure. What pushed the Chronicle over the edge into tepid support was another proposal hidden in the legislation: To earmark \$1.8 billion to create backup microgrids at critical facilities across the state — the brainchild of state Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas). With the long lead time for new power plants and the risks to the state grid, there should be a new solution for critical facilities that “you don’t ever want to have to go without electricity,” said Sen. Johnson. That list includes water towers, police and fire departments, medical facilities, and some retail — like the only grocery store or gas station in a small town.

The solution: To design and deploy a standardized set of small generators — propane or solar with battery backup — across the state.

One problem: Those are not currently available in the marketplace. Though there are home-level generator and storage systems, and large-scale microgrids are available for some grocery stores,\*\* for private investment “it’s just not economical to build these kinds of 1- to 2.5-megawatt generators,” Johnson said.

The ballot proposition (SB 2627) aimed to fill that gap: “Texas to design, deploy thousands of microgrids to insulate electric system from disaster,” rejoiced *The Hill* in November. Sadly, to date only Enchanted Rock Ltd.’s (ERock) “natural gas resiliency microgrids” are operative in the state.\*\*\*

\* Increasingly, microgrids are being deployed to provide carbon-free energy and resilience for data centers — notorious power hogs. Domestically, data center power consumption is expected to triple between now and 2030, from 20 to 60 GW, and if data center developers continue to build them as they have in the past, the facilities will threaten the stability of the grid. “There’s no way to power a future digital infrastructure in this country without a different approach,” says an industry expert.

\*\* More than 85 H-E-B stores have installed natural gas microgrids, and H-E-B has also utilized solar panels on 60 of its stores to protect them from the unreliable electric power grid. In some cases, H-E-B and Walmart have been able to sell the power back to the Texas grid as a source of income. The microgrids are made possible by Houston-based company Enchanted Rock and used in hospitals and assisted-living facilities too.

\*\*\* During Hurricane Harvey, wide-spread power outages occurred throughout the affected region. However, ERock’s microgrids provided full-power to their customers, such as 18 H-E-B stores in the Houston area. Because these systems are fed from underground natural gas pipelines, which were not destroyed by wind or flooding, the 18 H-E-B’s were able to remain open to help care for neighbors in their time of need. Today, one hundred and four H-E-B stores statewide have contracts with ERock for microgrids (41 currently operating and 63 being installed).

**Social Media? Yup.**

**Be sure to visit  
ACC's Facebook page  
(852 followers)  
and  
Arlington Conservation Council  
Discussion Group  
(136 members)**



**What do you want to talk about today?**

## Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marian Hiler

Cooler weather brings more energy to the wildscape. Plants and volunteers alike are perkier. The annual plant sale was the most successful ever and progress prepping the new prairie area and regular maintenance continues.

### Fall Plant Sale

Our intrepid, hardworking head propagator Josephine Keeney was ecstatic for days following the sale. She told her team:

“What an amazing sale it was, with all time high sales. One hundred different customers came and received a free plant or native plant seeds. We had lovely weather and many happy customers that came and shopped by the cartful, despite many other events and sales going on that day. I guess we have a good reputation and good prices, too. Many efforts by the volunteers resulted in a great success. Starting with the patient yearlong work of the greenhouse team, Hester Shwarzer, Kay Sekio, Joe Martinez, Charley Amos and Josephine Keeney. Together we raised 1,500 Texas Native plants to offer to the people excited about the idea of planting a pollinator garden to help the local wildlife that are suffering from lack of the plants they need to survive.”

*continued on page 20*



Propagation maven Josephine Keeney enjoying the day she's worked all year for. Marian Hiler photo.



Above, Evidence native plants are very popular. Jim Domke photo.



Above, Dana Austin helping a customer with her plant selections. Marian Hiler photo.



Above, Another happy customer. Jim Domke photo.

## Wildscape Update continued from page 19



One more plant sale under their belt. *Left to right: seated front row, Josephine Keeney and Kay Sekio; seated second row, Denise Pederson and Hester Schwarzer; standing, Dick Schoech, Ramona Gratton, Jane Oosterhuis, Joe Martinez, Dana Austin, Marian Hiler, Christine Brinson, and Carol Marcotte.* Frank Keeney photo.

### North Prairie installation

Volunteers at the wildscape were also very happy this month. APRD provided heavy duty help spreading mounds of chips across the to-be prairie reducing their efforts of hauling it via wheelbarrow across the field. Justin Carvajal from APRD brought a skid steer to move said mounds and promised to return when we get more mountains of chips. He should be back soon as Maverick Tree Service emptied a free truckload at the top of the prairie recently with plans to bring another in a few days. In the meantime, our volunteers continued the dusty, hard work of evenly spreading the chips.

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Justin and his skid steer making a molehill out of a mountain of chips. Marian Hiler photo.

## Wildscape Update continued from page 20, continued on page 22



More on the North Prairie installation. *Above*, Johnny Johnson helping driver Josh Favara carefully maneuver their Maverick Tree Service truck to unload chips in just the right spot. Ann Knudsen photo. *Below*, Spreading the chips hauled over by Justin. Ann Knudsen photo.



## Wildscape Update continued from page 21



The North Prairie: Volunteers tackling a pile of chips, one wheelbarrow full at a time. Ann Knudsen photo.

### Less strenuous activities

Regular maintenance with cooler weather involved less watering, a little planting, and the usual trimming and weeding. Pigeonberry and Frogfruit left over from the plant sale found a home in bare spots along the west sidewalk by the disc golf fairway.

*continued on page 23*



*Left, Cindy Underwood and Carol Marcotte ready to plant Frogfruit. Ann Knudsen photo. Right, Ann Knudsen and Dana Austin planting Pigeonberry under the Mexican plum trees. Marian Hiler photo.*

## Wildscape Update continued from page 22, continued on page 24



*Above left*, Melanie Harris and Karen Knight doing some weeding. Marian Hiler photo. *Right*, Carol Marcotte cutting back the Scarlet sage to encourage additional blooming. Marian Hiler photo. *Below left*, Patsy Miller, our reliable waterer, tending the west garden. Marian Hiler photo. *Right*, Josephine Keeney adding nutrient-rich compost to the butterfly garden. Marian Hiler photo.



## Wildscape Update continued from page 23

### First Saturday mini-classes

At the **October 5** mini-class "The Wild Birds of the Wildscape", Master Naturalist Carol Marcotte reviewed this year's bluebird nesting and what we can do to keep other common species common.

The wildscape has four bluebird nest boxes, which are monitored twice a week from March to August. Only two are active while the other two have had ants or wasps intermittently throughout the season. This year's bluebird breeding season produced 25 eggs with six fledglings.

At the mini-class scheduled for **November 2**, Master Naturalist Erika Swyryn will present "Tarantulas and why they're amazing!" She will review the vast variety of tarantulas and native Texas species you can find in your own backyard.

Mini-classes are held in the compost area and begin about 11:30 as the workday volunteers put away the day's tools.

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Carol reviews what a successful bluebird box includes. Ann Knudsen photo.

## Volunteer Opportunities

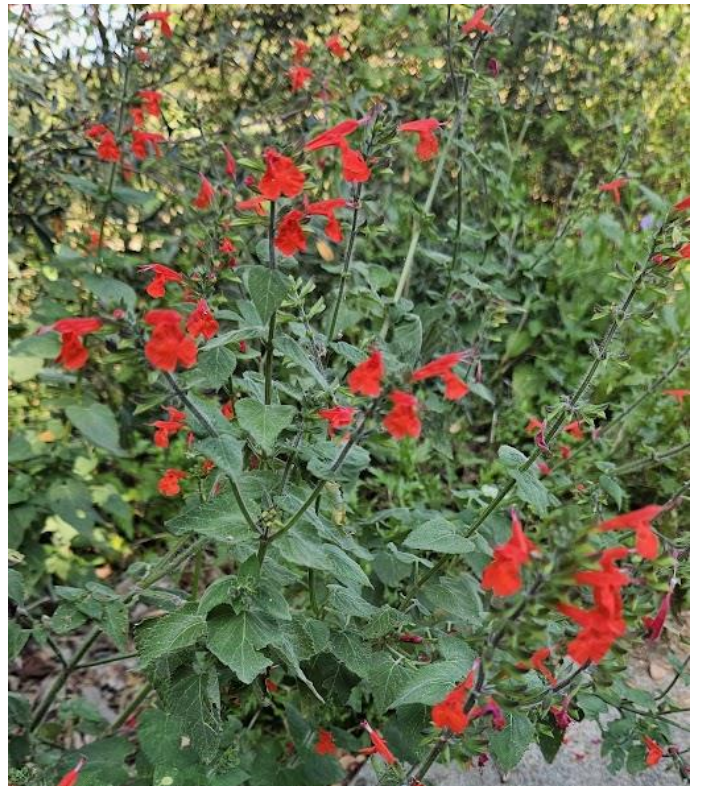
9:00 – noon Wednesdays and first Saturdays  
All are welcome, no experience necessary.  
Members of ecology and garden groups can receive credit hours.

For more information, contact  
[info@thewildscape.org](mailto:info@thewildscape.org)



Original wildscape sign fronted by Mealy blue sage and Scarlet sage. Ann Knudsen photo.

## Wildscape Update continued from page 24



*Above*, Blue mist. Ann Knudsen photo. *Above right*, Pearl Crescent butterfly nectaring on Cowpen daisy. Marian Hiler photo. *Below right*, Scarlet sage showing off why it got its name.

## Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

### Coming Up

#### **3rd Saturday Volunteer Day**

**Saturday Nov. 16, 9 am – noon**

The Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve schedule a once-a-month volunteer day on the **third Saturday of the month**. We tackle a wide variety of needs for the preserve. These include brush clearing, seeding, trail maintenance, transplanting and trash pickup. Volunteers get to learn in depth about the preserve and its goals while contributing to sustaining and improving this treasured ecosystem.

**Bring gloves, appropriate apparel and suntan lotion/bug repellent as needed. Meet in the parking lot.**

#### **Review: Saturday, October 5,**

#### **A Wild DFW Hike with Amy Martin** Annabelle Corboy and Jan Miller photos

The well-known local author Amy Martin invited some of her fans to SCNP where she and Jim Frisinger led a hike through the preserve, focusing on its history and the unique geology and wildlife that are found here.

Amy's book, *Wild DFW: Explore the Amazing Nature In and Around Dallas-Fort Worth*, features the preserve in the Adventures section, highlighting the sandstone bluff (aka Kennedale mountain), the historic Caddo Oak, and the surprise plants here like the Glen Rose yucca and the Farkleberry.

This hike was an opportunity to introduce the preserve to a group of nature enthusiasts who have been exploring "wild DFW" with Amy but aren't yet familiar with this special remnant of the Eastern Cross Timbers. The phrase "hiking at the speed of botany" was appropriate for our group, stopping to look closer at wasp galls, flowers, and grasses, many taking photos to post on iNaturalist (see the results [here](#).)

Jan Miller and Jim brought brand new brochures, cards, and seed packets to share with the attendees. Find information about Amy's upcoming hikes [here](#).



Amy Martin (blue shirt) looks over the new SCNP brochure with Jim Frisinger (far right).

## Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 26

### Review: A Wild DFW Hike

*Right, Jim Frisinger (far right) introduces the group to the preserve at the amphitheater before beginning the hike.*

*Below, the group poses at the Caddo Oak.*

*continued on page 28*



## Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 27

### Third Saturday Work Days Jim Frisinger

Our Third Saturday Work Days the last two months have focused on the North Prairie restoration site. Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve placed prairie soils from a Burleson rescue site — hat tip to John Snowden for the contribution! We also added such Texas native seeds as Little bluestem, Illinois bundleflower, Monarda and Purple coneflower across 40 sites on the prairie. Removing woody plants under some previously daylighted aged Post oaks revealed a pleasant surprise — Butterfly pea with its distinctive seed pods ready to pop.

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Butterfly pea seed pods



*Below left*, Paul Baidoo, Annabelle Corboy, and Jim Domke after a morning's work on the North Prairie. Jim Frisinger photo. *Right*, From left, Paul Baidoo, Jim Frisinger, and Annabelle Corboy spread rescued prairie soil across the North Prairie restoration site. Jim Domke photo.



## Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 28

### Third Saturday Work Days



*From left, Jim Fuquay, Jim Frisinger, and Jan Miller clear woody plants under a large Post oak on the North Prairie. Annabelle Corboy photo.*

### Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Training Class of 2024

For the second year, Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve hosted the Land Management Field Trip for the 2024 Training Class of Cross Timbers Master Naturalists. More than 30 class members plus their instructors arrived for lunch and an afternoon field trip after touring Fort Worth's Tandy Hills Natural Area that morning. Despite unseasonable warmth on Oct. 6, they enthusiastically hit SCNP trails to explore the preserve's characteristic Eastern Cross Timbers (EXT) features and to learn about efforts to maintain them by Friends and APRD. Many trainees snapped iNaturalist observations as they trekked from its ponds to the top of "Mt. Kennedale". They also experienced SCNP's deep sandy trails as much different from rocky limestone trails at Tandy Hills NA, less than 10 miles away. Jim led the class, explaining efforts to route trails sustainably, build bridges to cope with seep areas, manage invasive plants, restore 2 grassland areas, recognize endemic and significant native species and provide education and outreach through public events.

Thanks to Friends Jim Frisinger, Annabelle Corboy and Jan Miller for hosting the class. It's always a pleasure to engage with new MNs as they learn and experience new facets of their hometown ecosystems...and how they realize they can apply that new information to engage the public and to influence stewardship of nearby public lands.

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## Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 29

### SCNP iNaturalist Observations and Species September 2024

September was a very slow month for iNaturalist Observations, just 45! But the grasses! This is a good time to highlight some of them. The “big four” grasses of the tallgrass prairie are Big bluestem, Little bluestem, Indiangrass and Switchgrass; examples of all but little bluestem were noted in September.

We are especially grateful for those who didn't wait for cooler weather to visit. As always, thanks to everyone for contributing to increase understanding of biodiversity at SCNP:

Total September Observations: 45, Species, 34, Observers, 8.

Total August Observations: 299, Species, 153, Observers, 29.

Total July Observations: 1034, Species, 403, Observers, 24.

Total June Observations: 183, Species, 128, Observers, 10.

**Total Observations: 21,281. Species count at SCNP is same as August – 1,972!**

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Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*) – Postoak, Rough Buttonweed (*Hexasepalum teres*) – squaylei2000, Brazos Rain-Lily (*Zephyranthes chlorosolen*) – Postoak

## Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 30

### SCNP iNaturalist Observations and Species September 2024



Above, Curly Threeawn (*Aristida desmantha*) – squaylei2000, Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) – joshmols, Late Boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*) – Postoak

Below, Pink-scale Blazing Star (*Liatris hesperelegans*) – squaylei2000, Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) – joshmols, Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) – Postoak



**Blackland Prairie Preserve** Guy Random

*What's next at this place?  
One minute, cute fuzzy things.  
The next, gale-force winds  
Then a butterfly  
And a sunflower sunset.  
Just can't get enough.*



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## POST OAK

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

### Our November Zoom Meeting



**What I learned in South Africa:  
climate adaptations for Texas  
plants**

**Laura Miller**  
County Extension Agent  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**7 pm Wed, Nov 6, 2024**

Zoom meeting hosted by  
Arlington Conservation Council

**See page 5 for more on this presentation.**