

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 5

JUNE 2025



BLACKLAND PRAIRIE PRESERVE • GUY RANDOM PHOTO

June Zoom Meeting



Read more about this program on page 5

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84050277199>

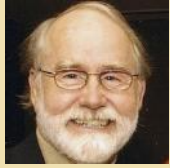
**For assistance accessing the meeting, contact Frank Keeney,
webmaster@acctexas.org**

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

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From the President **Dick Schoech**



What Does “Let Nature Be Nature” Mean?

When working in natural areas, we often hear the suggestion: Let nature be nature (LNBN). It seems to make sense, but what does it mean? Is it an easy concept to follow? Is it even possible to follow in today's world?

I'm often confused by this advice. For example, while monitoring Bluebird nest boxes we often encounter House sparrow nests rather than Bluebird nests. Since House sparrows are invasive in North America, are we not letting nature be nature if we remove the House sparrow nest from our park nest boxes? Since installing Bluebird nest boxes in Randol Mill Park in 2020, the Bluebird population has increased so Bluebirds are the most frequently seen birds around the park. Is installing Bluebird nest boxes in a park preventing nature from being nature?

LNBN is also difficult to follow in our pollinator garden work. By propagating plants with flowers that please humans, we decrease the number of plants that most humans do not prefer for many reasons such as color or shape. Is this also not practicing LNBN? Even designating areas of a city to be natural is not letting nature be nature. In today's world, surely all park natural areas are managed to some extent by humans rather than left to nature.

Earth's nature has changed and will continue to change as populations increase and lifestyles evolve. Some human populations in urbanized areas have been decreasing, but projections suggest the planet's population will continue to increase until it reaches 10.3 billion around 2085. Can nature in 2085 look similar to nature today?

Many government programs function on the assumption of population growth. Social Security, for example, cannot continue to be a safety net if fewer generations pay into it to cover retiring members. Longer lives due to better healthcare and disease eradication are challenging

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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

Published 10 times a year by
Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216
Arlington, TX 76004-0216

John Darling, editor
ldarling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

John Blair, Annabelle Corboy,
Grace Darling, John Darling,
Vicki G. Dixon, John Dycus,
Jim Frisinger, Marian Hiler,
Ann Knudsen, Carol Marcotte,
Donna Piercy, Ivan Querido,
Guy Random, Dick Schoech,
Michael Smith

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

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

From the President continued from page 3

the idea of LNBN. Cryogenics is a business built on suspending life until a future where humans can live very long lives. Robotics and artificial intelligence are creating longer lives by integrating people's bodies and minds with machines in ways that are not natural.

Management science also encourages a shortsighted win-lose approach to nature rather than win-win practices. Most environmentalists would like to see the science of climate change and their love of nature unite to ensure that biodiversity and other aspects of nature survive as human populations increase across the planet.

Natural evolution encourages survival of the fittest for all species, including humans. We have an innate tendency to compete for survival, which makes it difficult for species to peacefully coexist. Once powerful forces like religion were a check on behavior societies considered destructive (telling humans you will go to eternal hell if you do unnatural things). However, belief in hell seems on the decline, and religious organizations often are more interested in getting rich rather than following biblical teachings based on a society that is very different from today's.

While living at one with nature sounds good, it may be impossible in a world suffocated by housing developments, invasive species, and the effects of global warming. The U.S. political divide echoes the difficulty of following LNBN. Both major political parties say their world view is best for the planet. Regardless, LNBN remains important because it causes environmentalists to consider how our actions build on our historical past so that those actions will minimally upend the natural workings of our planet.

Additional reading

The Lost Art of Reading Nature's Signs by Tristan Gooley, 2015.



Eastern gamagrass at Molly Hollar Wildscape.
Ann Knudsen photo.

Our June Zoom Program

EV Myths and FUDs (Fears, Uncertainties, Doubts) Eric Pratt, Electrification Advocate

So you may want to buy an electric vehicle soon but don't remotely know how or where to begin. This presentation is for you. EV drum beater Eric Pratt recommends, first, that you learn the ABCs of EVs through the U.S. Department of Energy's pamphlet and the annotated review he prepared for the North Texas Renewable Energy Group — https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N8-I6bQhzC58-Gvu9CalDqGscFaPZOG/view?usp=drive_link and https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EFzmjBbSq70O8SZN4bj-eaZj57ECXjN5/view?usp=drive_link

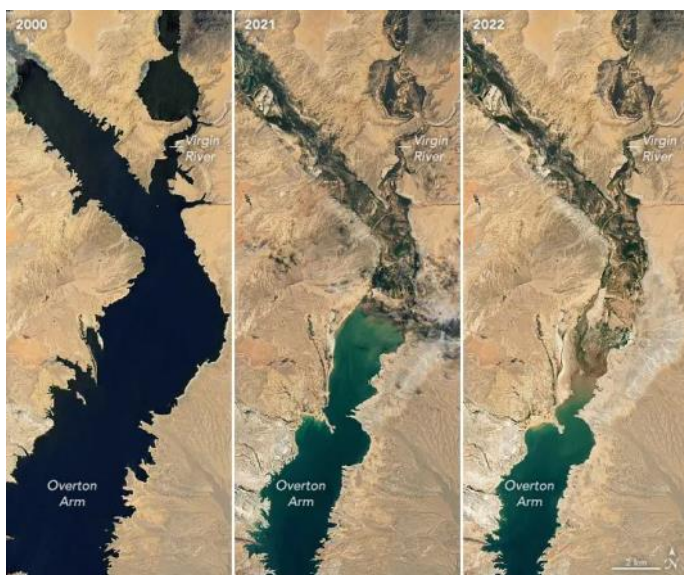
But still you likely will have doubts. This is an unknown (to you) technology, and perhaps very expensive. Where would you find support? Parts? Savvy repairmen? Are electric vehicles depleting crucial minerals? For every question, Eric will have an answer — or know where to find it!

He will address in his presentation the pros and cons, misconceptions, and what to look for/avoid in EVs. He also welcomes an information exchange to set the record straight about this technology and any ancillary issues.

Eric and his wife Suzie have driven EVs since 2016, indulging a decades-long interest in renewable energy in the built environment. They currently drive a Bolt EV for their around the Metroplex car and an Ioniq 5 for longer trips. Eric has served as secretary of NTREG, an education and advocacy nonprofit, for the past six years. He earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering with a focus on energy and fluid systems at UT Austin, then worked 32 years as an aerospace design engineer developing mechanical and hydraulic components for commercial and military aircraft.



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



Change in Lake Mead water level, 2000-2022.

Colorado River states still have no unifying long-term management plan and “are running out of time,” experts say. As the Colorado River shrinks due to drought and climate change, the negotiators must decide who will take less water — and they need to do so in the next few months. Years of drought not balanced by decreases in water consumption have [drained Lake Mead and Lake Powell](#), and aridification fueled by climate change is expected to continue to [reduce the flow](#) of the river that 40 million people rely on and which makes modern life possible across the Southwest. Commissioners from the seven states in the Colorado River Basin — Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, California and Nevada — must create a plan that will govern how those states divvy up the river’s water after the [current guidelines expire at the end of 2026](#). The challenge is enormous: This season’s mountain [snowpack is expected to deliver about half the median amount of water](#) to the system’s two major reservoirs, which are already two-thirds empty. *[Denver Post, 5/31/25]*



The **Endangered Species Act** prohibits certain actions that “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect” threatened and endangered organisms. Until now, “harm” was understood to include actions that significantly impact an organism’s habitat. *[esa.org, 4/29/25]* Under a new Trump administration rule, “harm” would be redefined to mean intentionally killing or hurting a particular animal or plant. This tortured redefinition of a simple word with a common meaning would benefit those who cut down forests, mine, drill and put up parking lots. That’s how corporations came to be “persons” in 2010, because the common definition of a person was inconvenient. *[WillPryor, Letters, DMN, 5/7/25]*

The Texas population is expected to exceed 51 million by 2070, and current water resources to supply this growing population are grossly inadequate. Agriculture is the largest user of Texas water, with irrigation using 53% of total water and 74% of Texas groundwater, according to the Texas Water Development Board. Water shortages, while affecting all Texans, are felt even more acutely by rural citizens in drought-prone areas. In the current legislative session, House Joint Resolution 7 proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a

continued on page 7

In Case continued from page 6

portion of the revenue from state sales taxes to the Texas Water Fund, but is opposed by Republican-led PACs on the basis of “billions in new constitutional spending.” Not only is their track record consistently anti-rural, but it would appear that these groups, and the party they control, seek privatization of water, similar to their stance on schools. *[Glenn Rogers, Op-ed, DMN, 5/24/25]*

“As science is the bedrock of our nation’s economy, well-being and defense, defunding science and the institutions that train scientists and engineers will frustrate America’s ability to solve critical problems such as climate change, feeding the world, natural resource scarcity (e.g., water) and cleaning up our poisoned ecosphere. It will also thwart innovation and reindustrialization, which is necessary to repay the \$36 trillion national debt.”

[Michael Pravica, Letter, DMN, 5/20/25]



Ranch near Big Bend now part of expanded wildlife area, read the headline. The Heath Canyon property was previously a sizable gap in a vast area of protected lands amid the Brushy Canyon Preserve, Big Bend National Park, and other state-owned properties. The relatively unaltered wildlife

habitat contains more than 250 plant species, several of which are found nowhere else on Earth. With its 1.2 miles of river frontage, the ranch is the only end point for the popular Boquillas Canyon river trip and a rare access point for the remote and scenic Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande, which is Texas’ only designated National Wild and Scenic River. The Nature Conservancy of Texas acquired the property for nearly \$1.2 million: “We are fortunate to have TNC as a conservation partner and through their generous support, TPWD is able to grow our public lands footprint.” In the last few weeks, TPWD also announced it acquired an 1,100-acre swath of land for the creation of a new state park in the Hill Country and 7,000 acres in East Texas for a new wildlife management area. *[TNC, 5/6/25]*

More North Texans may soon have the ability to turn their homes into “virtual power plants” to enhance grid stability and lower costs. Three energy-delivery firms are collaborating to bring the behind-the-meter, battery-enabled technology to Texas. A virtual power plant, or VPP, is a network of decentralized energy sources working together to generate, store, and manage electricity. The smart technology — which runs on sustainable energy — mixes home batteries, smart devices, and solar panels. Each battery is continuously managed in response to market price signals, customer usage, and solar generation. Together, they dynamically balance energy supply and demand to maximize value for both the grid and the customer. ERCOT approved a VPP program in 2022 and other companies have since penetrated the Texas power alternative market, but it’s too soon to call the technology a success. *[DMN, 5/7/25]*

Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



Motivational poster:

Find a way!
Or make a way!

Or maybe something
like that.

Visit ACC's
Facebook page
and
Discussion Group

Trash bug



From Dick Schoech: A larval lacewing that has covered itself with the bodies of its prey and other debris. Juvenile lacwings are prized as aphid eliminators, but there's a lot more to know. Find it [here](#).



Desert willow.

Say it with Flowers



Headed for the compost heap, but not without leaving an ugly trail in its wake: lots of negative environmental effects including monoculture, water use, pesticides, fertilizer, worker health, and air transportation. Not bad enough? If you need more, [try this](#).

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



ACC Trees

ACC Heritage Trees

From Ann Knudsen: The Fielder bridge that goes over Division and Abram streets, known locally as Death's Crossing, was built circa 1978. I remember seeing this Post oak "saved" in the manner shown and thinking nice try, but it'll be dead in a few short years. I am delighted to be proven wrong and hope it will continue to prove me wrong for another 47-plus years. *Ed. note: Yes, that's concrete everywhere.*



ACC Trees

ACC Heritage Trees

From Marian Hiler: It won't rank high in the majestic trees category, but this Cedar elm in the Molly Hollar Wildscape has tenacity in spades. It continues to hold the creek bank firmly in place even while the [seasonal heavy rains rush against it.](#)



Question Corner John Darling

Q: Hey, my favorite cactus is all nasty with little tiny creatures that look like they're hurting the pads. I see bunches of yellowish spots where they're all clumped together. Those things are killing my cactus just when I 'm finally going to get flowers. So what am I going to do?

A: Okay, first get a life. Then get iNaturalist, and those geniuses will tell you they're a batch of cactus bugs just starting out before they grow up and go put their little sucking mouth parts into somebody else's plants. If you're really freaked out, take this advice from Wizzie at Texas A&M: Spray them with water, pick them off or squish them, or vacuum the cactus. Promise me that if you vacuum, you'll get somebody to take pictures and send them to me. These days I could use a laugh. Next!



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(817) 275-1000

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ArlingtonNOW.com
Event Photography

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Karen Foley 817-535-1152



Mealy blue sage

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John DYCUS

3607 Shady Park Drive
Arlington, TX 76013
(817) 277-2138
john@jcdycus.com

SHANE GOETZ
Law Office of

3705 N Shadycreek Dr
Arlington, TX 76013
shane@goetzlawtx.com

817-265-2902
Fax: 817-549-4438

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The Page with No Name

Report from the field

Ivan Querido

So you told Querido, our so-called special correspondent, that we're going to Cannes for a climate conference? He can't be that stupid. Sure he can. Anyway, I told Security to keep him away from the Post Oak writers' suite, so there won't be any trouble. Except for that police thing. And our lawyers are all over that. Trouble? You know it's always the suits that are trouble. But forget them and just look at this latest thing, even though it's only pines that never belonged here. Was it huge aliens who just wanted the tops for Christmas trees? Maybe an art installation? A terrible setup for hanging a hammock? Totem poles! I see the beginnings of a face down on the right. Okay, let's move on.



IN LOVE WITH THE EARTH

The Earth and I are lovers.
Oh we try to keep it secret . . .
I dissemble, act the beast,
Abuse her with my carelessness.

On her part she can pretend
To be indifferent and cold,
Keeping me so uncomfortable
I doubt she knows I'm here.

But I couldn't live without her;
And absent me, who would there be
To worship her,
To write her poems?

©2004 John I. Blair



The Trolling for New Members Page with a filler shot



Pillar Light Update Donna Piercy

Update on Pillar Light at National Medal of Honor Museum: We need your input

As you read last month, the tribute light at NMoHM can harm birds during their migration over the Dallas Fort Worth area.

The Museum gave a tentative okay to turning the lights out at 11:00 pm, but we have no way of knowing whether they are actually going off at that time. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is tracking bird density in the area for us, but we need info on when the light is on and off. If you know of a place with a view of the museum that can host a web cam to record this information, it would aid our efforts tremendously.

You can also email me at [depiercy@hotmail](mailto:depiercy@hotmail.com) with drive by or viewing information right after 11:00 pm: Is it on or off? You can also sign up with Fort Worth Audubon Society to view the museum on nights between May 25 through June 25. You do not have to be a FWAS member and can sign up for any number of nights. Viewing should commence at 10:45 pm and end as soon as the lights are out or by 11:05 pm. Weekends are the most helpful. Contact Joy Havner at joyhavner@fwas.org if you can help.

Thank you for helping to protect our night skies by participating in our citizen science project.



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Arlington news.**

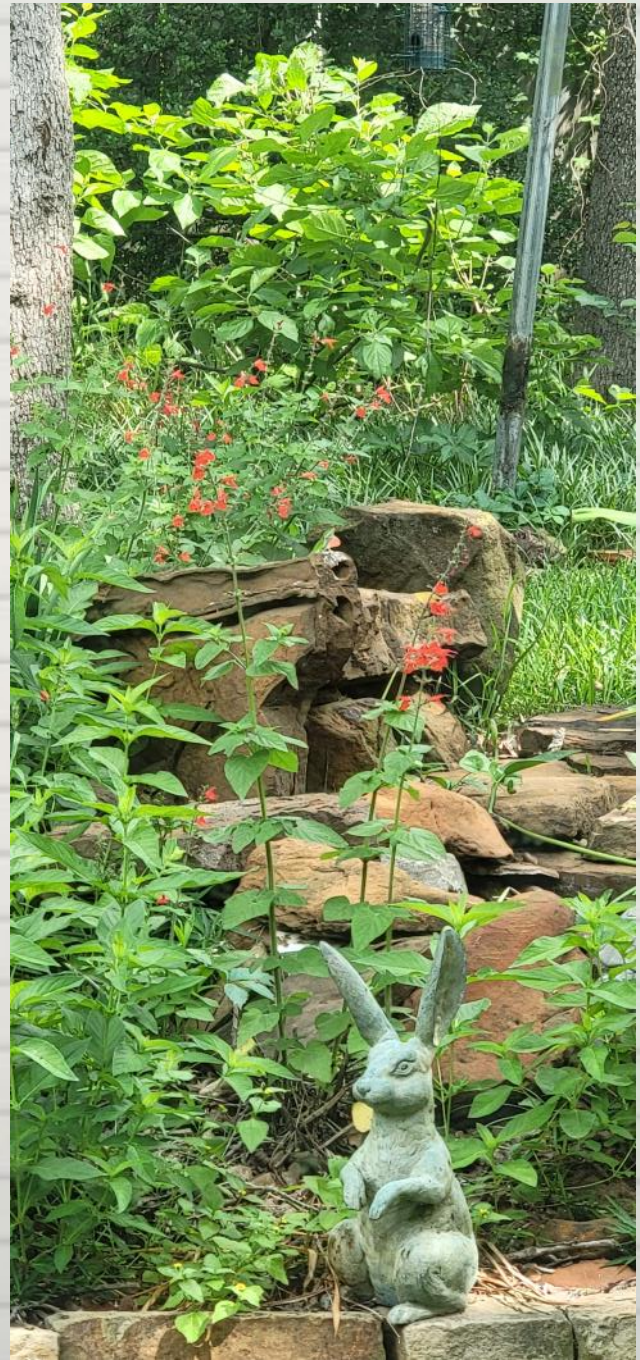
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My Nature Notebook

It's not a chameleon?

We sneaked over to the creepy old guy's yard again and he caught us again but this time he said we could stay if we stand right here and find the green anole. We looked and looked and Stupid finally said there it is! Look up from the bunny's right ear and there it is! He's doing pushups! Why? The COG said to show he's the boss of this place. You can stay a while but DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING. Or why don't you go home and read a little about him? Maybe right now?



Dick Schoech photo.

Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

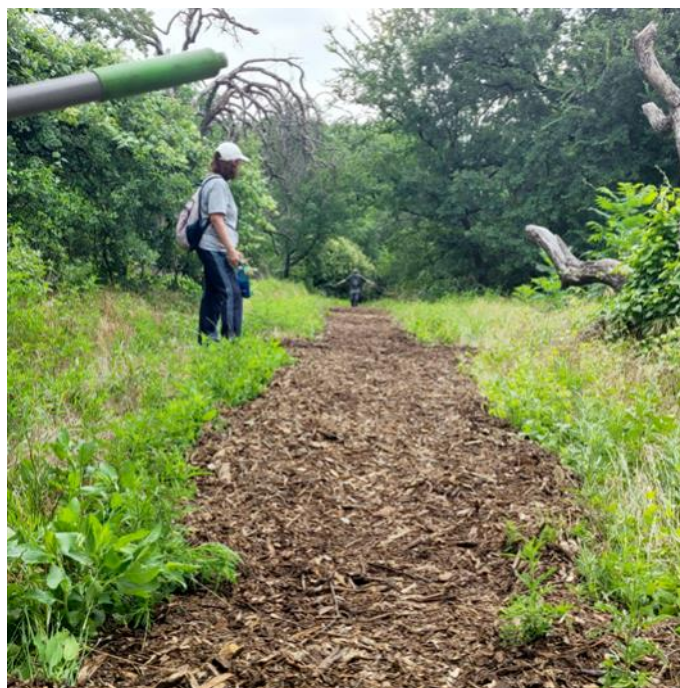
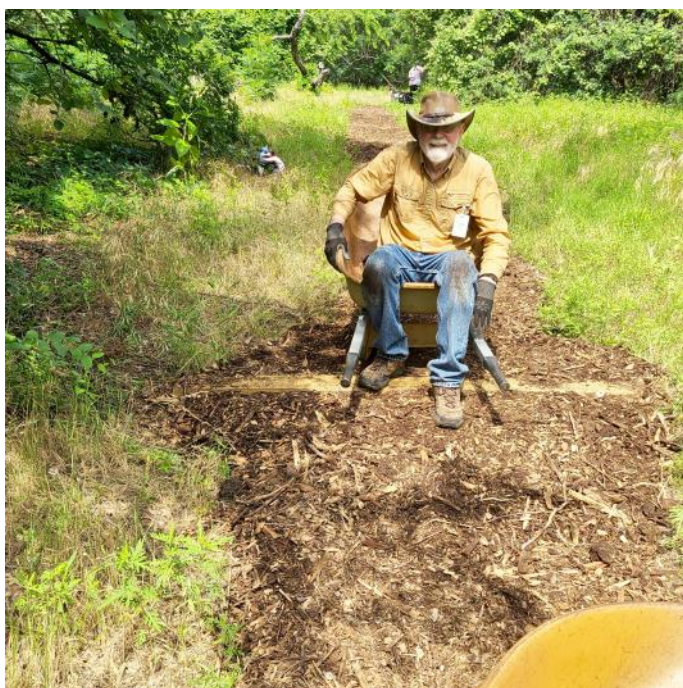
Trail Mulching

Neighbors of Randol Mill Park participated in a trail mulching event on Saturday, May 24. We mulched the Bridge Trail, added seven new cross ties, and reduced the north mulch to ground level.

A good time was had by all. Thank you, Arlington Parks & Rec Department. Our dedicated volunteers included Dick Schoech, Jimmy Barrera, Margey Almy, Laurie Jagielski, Carol Marcotte, and Carla Frierson.

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At right, from left, Laurie Jagielski, Margey Almy, Carla Frierson, Dick Schoech, Jimmy Barrera. Below left, Dick Schoech. Right, a newly mulched trail.



Randol Mill Park continued from page 16

4th Thursday Volunteer Workday

We spent the morning in the Pond Triangle Garden, making a difference with lots of weeding and thinning out plants.



Above from left, Patsy Miller, Dick Schoech, Laurie Jagielski. Above right, Laurie Jagielski. Below left, Dick Schoech.



Bob Findlay Linear Park Vicki Dixon

On Saturday, May 17, the flower bed at the Bob Findlay Linear Park was replanted with perennial Texas native plants. The eight volunteers with the Friends of the Park quickly prepared the bed and put the plants supplied by the city of Arlington in the ground. The weather was very cooperative, with rain in the afternoon to help the plants settle in.

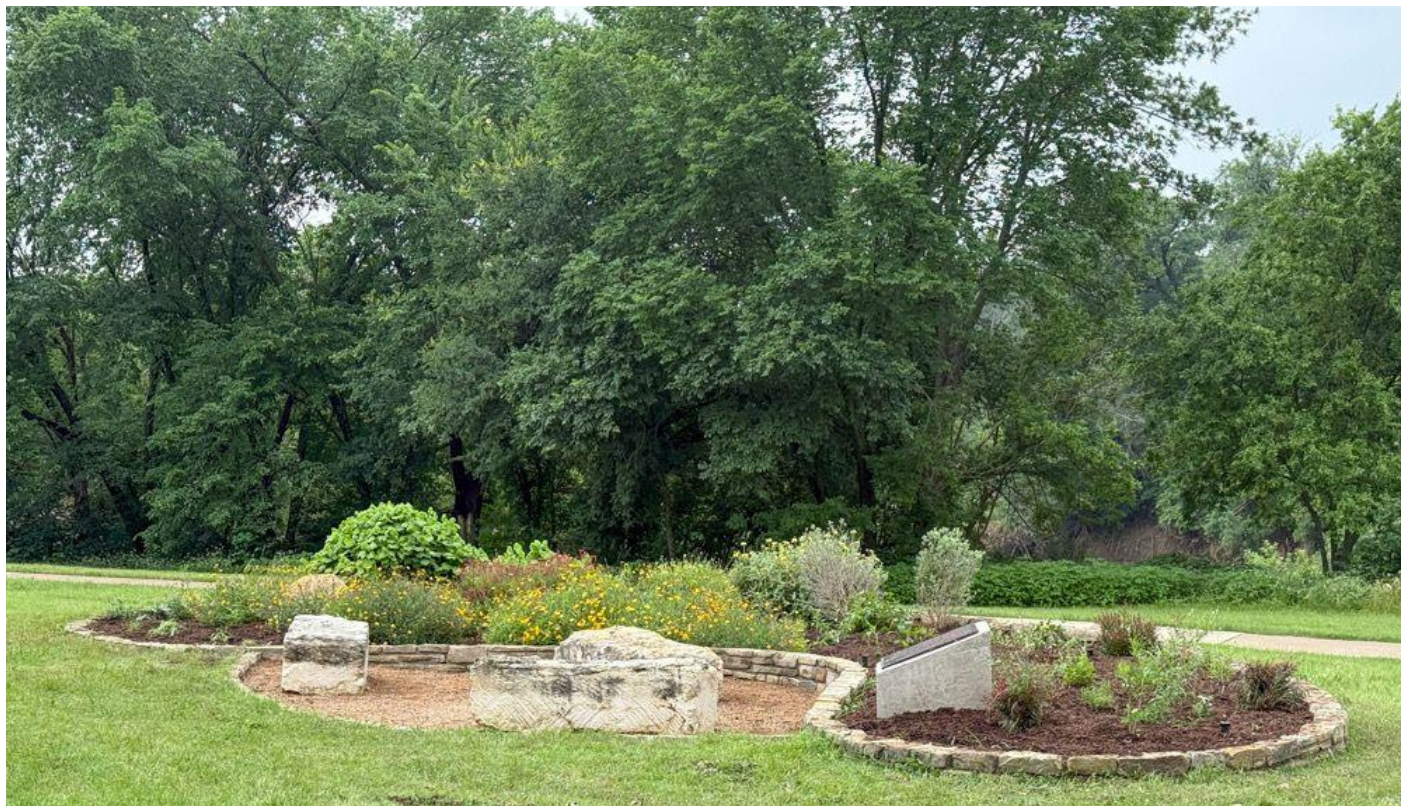
Our hope is to maintain the flower bed with native plants and for it to serve as a resource for residents to use in identifying plants for their gardens. The plants have also been labeled for easy identification. The flower bed is located at 900 Findlay Drive, east of the low-water dam on Village Creek.

The Friends of the Park want to express their appreciation to Dick Schoech and Carol Marcotte for sharing their expertise and pitching in with the planting.

The Friends of Bob Findlay Linear Park hope this will be the beginning of many more community activities in the park.

Anyone wanting more information on this group can send an email to FriendsOffFindlayLinearPark@gmail.com or contact Vicki Dixon, vgdixon@swbell.net, 817-690-8564.

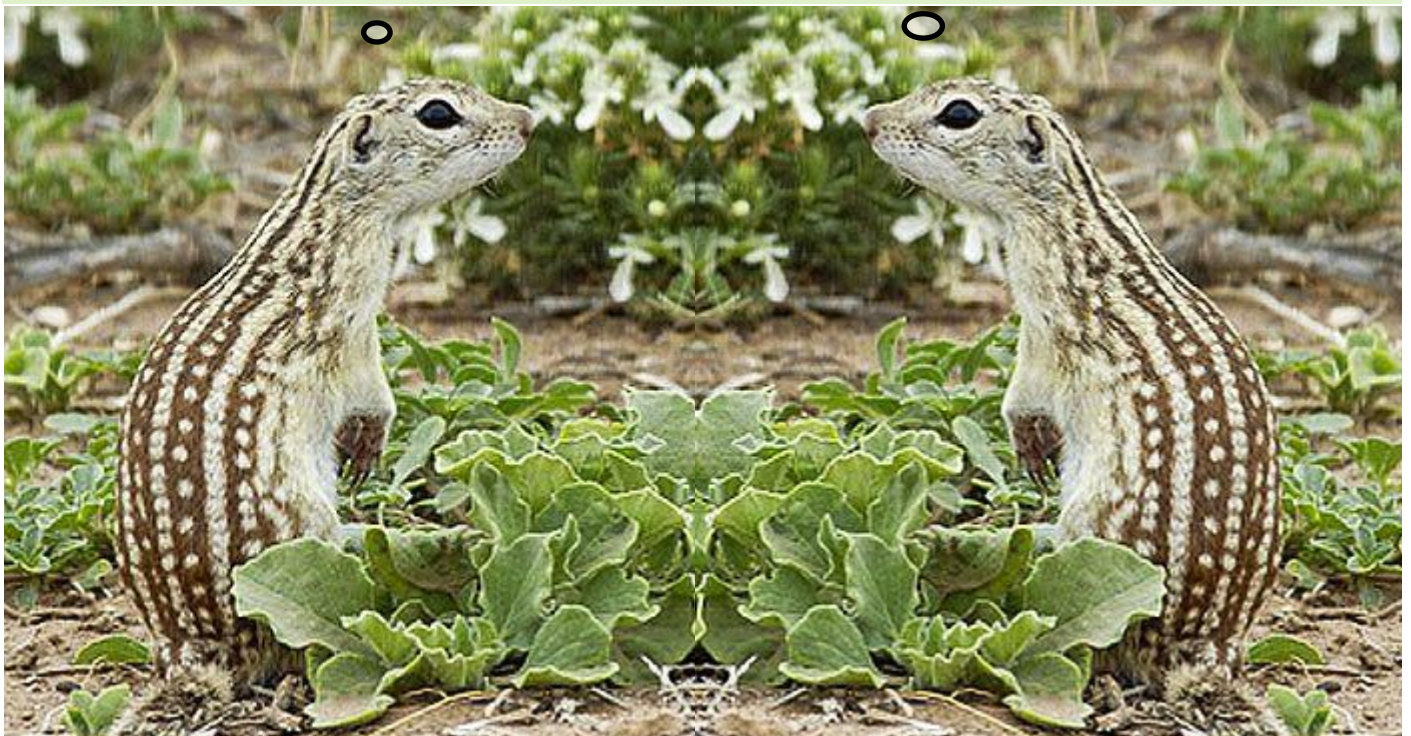
The newly planted bed just after installation of native perennials. Vicki Dixon photo.



Any Time Is Dues Time! Guilty? Look on the Back Page.

**Why join ACC?
Their stuff is
free.**

**Sure, the educational
meetings and the news-
letters are free. But are
you missing a big point?
(See below.)**



Big Point (or two): If ACC is bigger, we carry more weight when we try to influence our city council in matters we care about. Also, you will just feel better as an environmentalist in hostile territory when you commit to a group of like-minded individuals (actual fact).

Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marian Hiler

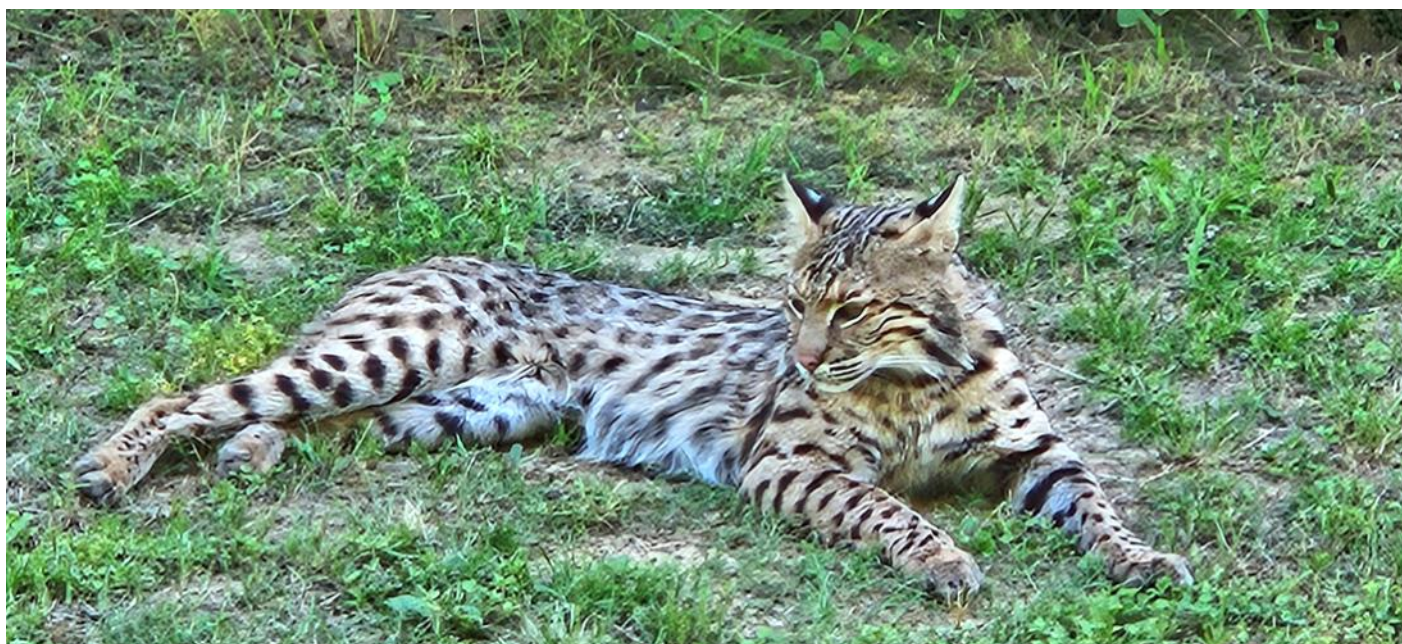
Not surprisingly, the main activities continue to be weed removal with a little bit of plant installation. There was also a failed attempt to install two very large bench-sized stones along the east-west sidewalk south of the woodland area. Molly Hollar's daughters donated the stones as a memorial to her and their brother Lee. Recently, Whiz-Q delivery discovered that the vehicular bridge could not support the forklift transporting the first stone after all, cracking a couple of the bridge cross boards in the process. The ongoing downpour and muddy slope prevented approaching from the north. The delivery will be rescheduled for a drier day. Stay tuned.

Ann Knudsen was able to snag a photo of a bobcat one evening. It was just chilling like it owned the place, sitting on the edge of the disc golf fairway next to the wildscape. A couple of volunteers have mentioned catching a glimpse of one, maybe this very bobcat, on occasion.

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*Right, Whiz Q forklift operator gives the bad news to Molly's daughters. Marian Hiler photo.
Below, One cool cat. Ann Knudsen photo.*



Wildscape Update continued from page 20

Planting in the new prairie has slowed down, partly due to the time of year but primarily because we haven't pursued many additional plant rescues. John Snowden was able to rescue some Green milkweed that was installed in the southern section. Missouri violets were also planted under the Cedar elm trees on the west side next to the sidewalk.

Ann Knudsen, frequently assisted by Lynn Chen, continues her near daily trek determined to remove cat's ears. When they first started, the weed made a choking carpet cover over at least a third of the prairie site. Ann estimates they have taken out two-thirds of that. An unexpected joy for them has been the revelation of desirable plants already residing on site, such as Buffalo grass, Venus' looking-glass and possibly some Blue-eyed grass (too late in the season to confirm). Also, showing up are plants that tagged along when the prairie grasses were rescued. Discovered, so far, are Gaillardia, Prairie verbena, Green thread, and Prairie brazosmint.

It's beginning to look like a diverse prairie much sooner than we could have imagined. We couldn't be happier!

continued on page 22

A prairie emerges. Ann Knudsen photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 21, continued on page 23



Above, A view to the west. Ann Knudsen photo. *Below*, Just one of the many days Ann Knudsen and Lynn Chen go after the cat's ears. Marian Hiler photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 22

First Saturday mini-classes

There wasn't a first Saturday workday/mini-class in May due to the Native Plant Society's successful plant sale at Randol Mill Park.

At the mini-class scheduled for June 7, Master Naturalist Tina Olivas will present "Intro to Phenology" — a term you may not know but probably already know a lot about. It is the study of plant and animal life cycles, especially their timing as driven by changes in weather and climate.

Mini-classes are held in the compost area and begin about 10:30 as the workday volunteers put away the day's tools.

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Volunteer Opportunities

New summer hours

8:00 – 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

Western rat snake. Ann Knudsen photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 23 continued on page 25



Above left, Seedy weed removal along west edge and disc golf fairway. *Right*, Josephine Keeney always keeps the butterfly garden pathways cleared of weeds. Ann Knudsen photo. *Below*, Newly installed signs explain this is an intentional project. Green thread blooms nearby. Marian Hiler photo.



Wildscape Update

continued from page 24, continued on page 26



Above left, Green milkweed with new flower buds. Ann Knudsen photo. *Right*, Whorled milkweed. Ann Knudsen photo. *Below left*, Skipper nectars on an American basket-flower. Marian Hiler photo. *Right*, Western small milkweed bug. Ann Knudsen photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 25



Above left, Bluebird house and its current occupant. Marian Hiler photo. *Right*, Colorful entrance to the wildscape's original quarter acre. Ann Knudsen photo. *Below left*, Texas lantana. Marian Hiler photo. *Right*, Rock rose. Marian Hiler photo.



Social Media? Yup.

**Be sure to visit
ACC's Facebook page
(847 followers)
and
Discussion Group
(144 members)**



What do you want to talk about today?

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve

Have a Look at Our Updated Website Annabelle Corboy

The Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve have a website where you can find information about upcoming events, the history of the preserve, and blog posts with stories of interest to fans of the preserve. You can find it at www.friendsofscnp.org. We recently updated our website's [Visiting the Preserve](#) page with expanded guidelines on how to be safe at the preserve. The guidance includes protecting yourself and your walking partners from troublesome plants, insects, the sun, wildlife, and other visitors to the preserve. We think these suggestions can be applied to many activities and encourage you to take a look to help you be prepared for your next nature outing.

Moths and Their Yuccas Michael Smith

Spring unfolds between March and June, starting with early flowers and bare trees budding. Then the trees get their leaves and a different set of flowers have their day. Now the yuccas have sent up new green stalks and it's time for them to produce clusters of pale cream-colored flowers.

There's a white moth that matures at the same time, ready to visit those flowers. The Yucca moth would be easy to overlook. It is small and not brightly colored. But in nature, very cool things are happening all the time, even when we don't notice.

On May 10th at Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve, several of us took a walk at sunset to see the yuccas and their moths and think about how their lives depend on each other. John and Grace Darling led this group of nature folks, and John told us about how the insect and the plant come together at just the right time, and how they allow each other to survive. The biological term that describes their relationship is "mutualism."

There are many ways in which species of plants and animals interact in nature. For example, we all know that when one species benefits at the expense of another one, it is a parasite. In commensalism, one species benefits while the other one isn't harmed but also does not benefit. As they move, the cattle stir up insects which the birds consume. The birds benefit, and the cattle really don't care.

Maybe the most beautiful relationship is mutualism, in which each species benefits. We might think of friends or people we love, where we care for each other and bring each other joy. But that's an example where both are humans. For the word "mutualism" to apply, the players have to be different species.



SCNP continued from page 28**Moths and Their Yuccas**

Heading toward Boulder Trail.

They can't see themselves in their partner or communicate like two humans. And yet, their lives revolve around each other.

Here's [how it works](#) for moth and yucca. As the yucca produces flowers, the moths reach their adult form and fly to them. The flower is where males and females find each other and mate. Then when the female moth is ready, she gathers pollen from a flower and flies off to find a different flower where she can put pollen on the stigma, at the top of the female part of the flower. This is important, because the offspring are genetically healthier if the parent plant is not self-pollinated.

The female moth then positions herself so that she can lay eggs in the ovary of the flower, at the base of the female structure. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on the developing seeds, but only a few. After this, they chew their way out of the seed pod and fall to the ground. There, they dig down and wait out the rest of the season before emerging the next year, ready to do it all again.



Glen Rose yuccas.

continued on page 30

SCNP continued from page 29**Moths and Their Yuccas**

The moth larvae only eat yucca seeds, so the plant giving up a few of its seeds makes the moth's survival possible. And nothing else can pollinate the yucca, so if there were no moths, there would be no yuccas. Each is necessary for the other's life.



Examining the yucca flowers.

At the preserve, we walked to a spot where Glen Rose yuccas grow, and several were hung with clusters of blooms. After looking into a few of them, we began seeing the small, pale moths hanging onto the inside of the flower. Sometimes there was one moth, but one photo shows four of them in the same flower. A few were disturbed by our getting close and they flew off into the twilight.

A little later we walked to a second site where there were more flowering yuccas and their moths, and also some dried stalks from last year. We were looking for tunnels where the larvae had left the seed pod.

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SCNP continued from page 30, continued on page 32**Moths and Their Yuccas**

I found one and John confirmed it, peeling away the outer coating and looking at the stacks of flat seeds. The larva had eaten a few and then exited, leaving the rest of the seeds to propagate more Glen Rose yuccas.

And then it was full dark and time for us to walk the trail out of the preserve under a beautiful full moon.



Four moths in this yucca flower.



SCNP continued from page 31**Third Saturday Volunteer Day at SCNP** Jim Frisinger

Volunteer Josh Parkerson wields a privet puller during Third Saturday at Sheri Capehart in May. The Blue Trail coming north off Kennedale Mountain has been our focus recently. The sweet rewards are coralberries moving in where we pulled privet in the past. Lessons learned: Pull privet in the winter (when it's not hot and steamy), and don't forget to bring a sharpshooter shovel. Hat tip to Molly Hollar Wildscape for lending us the privet pullers.



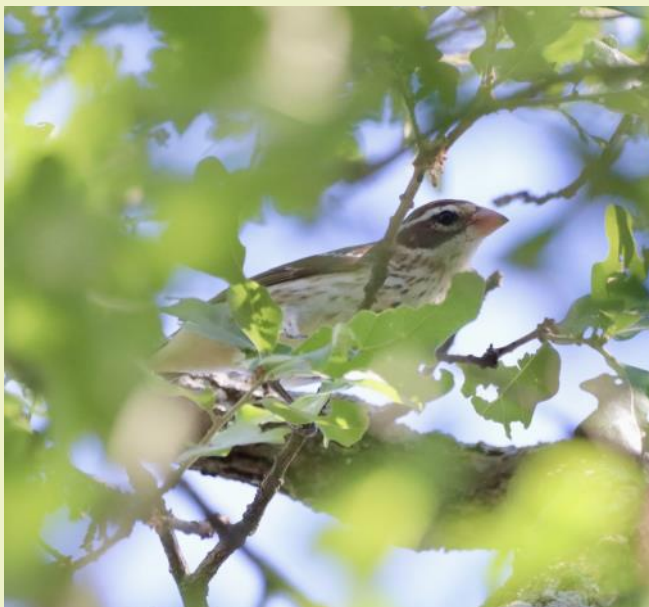
We celebrate rare events in the natural world. In May, a clasping milkweed, *Asclepias amplexicaulis*, was spotted at Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve, the extreme western edge of its range. It's been documented only a half dozen times in Tarrant County in the iNaturalist Age. Twice by Bob O'Kennon in 2016 at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. And several times now at Sheri Capehart on the North Prairie, apparently the same plant: in 2017 by Sam Kieschnick, in 2021 by Grace Darling, and this year on May 11 first by an iNatter with the handle krazykatlady (with a follow-up spotting 10 days later by iNat handle Jean Dotson). Bravo! Krazykatlady photo.

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SCNP continued from page 32, continued on page 34**New Birds** Jim Frisinger

We too often forget Arlington is just a pitstop for migratory birds. iNaturalist handle Sam Dragon-Moore was the first to photograph two bird species at Sheri Capehart, both on May 12: the rose-breasted grosbeak and the blue-headed vireo. (Robert Neill reported the vireo first, posting it on eBird in 2014). The grosbeak winters in the tropics and breeds north of Texas, the vireo is headed to Canada to breed. Sam Dragon-Moore photos.



Rose-breasted grosbeak



Blue-headed vireo



SCNP continued from page 33**SCNP iNaturalist Observations and Species April 2025**

Numbers for April: 694 Observations, 361 Species, 15 Observers.

Totals for SCNP — Observations: 23,548 and Species: 2,082.

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) played an important role in getting such high numbers for April. Over the 4 CNC days (April 25-28), we had 525 Observations, with Sam Kieschnick, Charley Amos, and Michael Smith contributing 375 of those.

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Some April examples:



Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) - sam_dragon-moore, Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) – charley, Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - jaytee60



Reakirt's Blue (*Echinargus isola*) - sam_dragon-moore, Winecup Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*) - Postoak, Texas Red-headed chrysomela (*Chrysomela texana*) - sambiology

SCNP continued from page 34**SCNP iNaturalist Observations and Species February 2025**

Above, Pinkladies (*Oenothera speciosa*) - sam_dragon-moore, Green Antelopehorns (*Asclepias viridis*) - joshmols, Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) - sambiology, Below, Eggplant Tortoise Beetle (*Gratiana pallidula*) - sambiology, Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - sambiology



Blackland Prairie Preserve Guy Random

*Mid-May and cloudy.
All green with small dabs of white
scattered here and there.
Getting hard to walk.
Godzilla in Tokyo
Had it easier.*



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

Our June Zoom Meeting



7 pm Wed, June 4, 2025

EV Myths and FUDs

(Fears, Uncertainties, Doubts)

Eric Pratt, Electrification advocate

Zoom meeting hosted by
Arlington Conservation Council

See page 5 for more on this meeting.