ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL

POST OAK

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 7
SEPTEMBER 2025

KATYDID ON DATURA, CENTRAL ARLINGTON • GUY RANDOM PHOTO

August Zoom Meeting

Read more about this program on page 6

Did you miss this great talk?
Watch it by clicking on
this link.

Contents

3 From the President
5 Positivity
6 Our August Program
7 In Case You Missed It
11 Bits and Pieces
12 ACC Heritage Trees
13 Question Corner
16 My Nature Notebook
18 Molly Hollar Wildscape Update
29 Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve
33 Blackland Prairie Preserve

From the President Dick Schoech

Saving Our Environmental Work from Politics

Texas summers are the best and worst times of the year for environmentalists. Days are long, wildflowers are at their peak, and garden fruits and vegetables are wonderful. But these same days can be too steamy hot to be outside and enjoy our surroundings. Volunteering several hours in a park is almost too much to bear, especially for seniors whose bodies have more difficulty tolerating the weather. And now this summer comes with a new stressor — quarrelsome politics.

The clash of left and right dominates what we hear, see, and do. Some people view climate change as something we must forcefully combat before floods, droughts, wildfires, heat waves, hurricanes, and extinctions overwhelm our precious planet. Luckily, most environmental volunteers do not see climate change as a scam to force their beliefs on the public.

This political chasm exists on most environmental problems at all levels — city, county, school district, state, national, international — which makes it difficult to unite around solutions. Energies that could help solve problems collapse in arguments, harsh words, even political protests. These differences can rob volunteers of the social connectedness so vital to reaping the benefits of volunteering. Sadly, Texas finds itself smack in the middle of this ideological divide.

One approach to volunteering can be to keep our opinions to ourselves, but that makes it difficult to discuss environmental issues, their causes, and answers. It forces our attention on the few solutions that are not controversial, such as eradicating privet. Another approach sadly not used nearly enough is to accept that there are many ways to find solutions.

continued on page 4

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
1darling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors
John Blair, Lynn Chen, Annabelle Corboy, Grace Darling, John Darling, John Dycus, Marian Hiler, Ann Knudsen, Carol Marcotte, Ivan Querido, Guy Random, Dick Schoech, Michael Smith, Marylee Thomason, Kent Underwood

Proofreaders
Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of every preceding month. Please send them to *1darling@sbcglobal.net*

From the President continued from page 3

Focusing on environmental goals avoids politics as long as we tolerate disparate views and are nice to each other. This is often difficult because environmental solutions involve discussions of causes, rationales, and data collection, and this can involve many compromises.

Here's a final strategy. Use our love of nature as a healer when we feel combativeness creeping into our opinions. Periodically assessing whether our volunteer solutions are in synch with nature can help lessen the influence of politics in our environmental work.

Purple passionflower vine after a welcome rain.

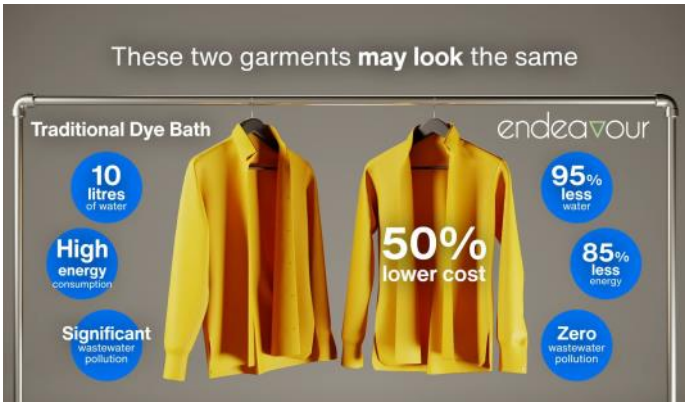
Positivity John Darling

Yes, we're environmentally positive again, thanks this month to John Dycus who has supplied a big batch of good news to choose from. You can keep us going with this. See something positive you like? Send me a link to something good. Just try to spot new things so we don't repeat ourselves.

An Australian gravity train transports ore without emissions. An ore train carries its massive load downhill while regenerative braking sends electricity to its batteries to power the trip back up when it's empty. The mining company's 54 locomotives consumed over 21 million gallons of diesel fuel in 2021, and they're aiming for no diesel fuel use and zero emissions by 2030.

In Japan, a new plant is producing electricity by osmosis. It happens day and night, in all weathers, as fresh water pushes through a membrane into sea water, and the pressure produces electricity. This new facility powers a desalination plant. It's not an easy process, but advances in pumps and membranes should help increase efficiency. Pilot projects are underway in Norway, Qatar, and elsewhere.

A better way to count: Drones found over 41,000 Giant river turtle nests along the Guaporé river between Brazil and Bolivia.This approach combined marking some turtles and calculations to produce a better estimate than traditional ground-based surveys that can be highly inaccurate. The work can aid in conservation efforts for this turtle, and the methods should work with other species.



It takes a lot of water to dye fabrics, and the water ends up contaminated and needing special treatment. So waterless dyeing with carbon dioxide sounds like a big improvement, but how much? Information on this useful site looks less dramatic than some claims, but the dyeing news is encouraging and should get even better.

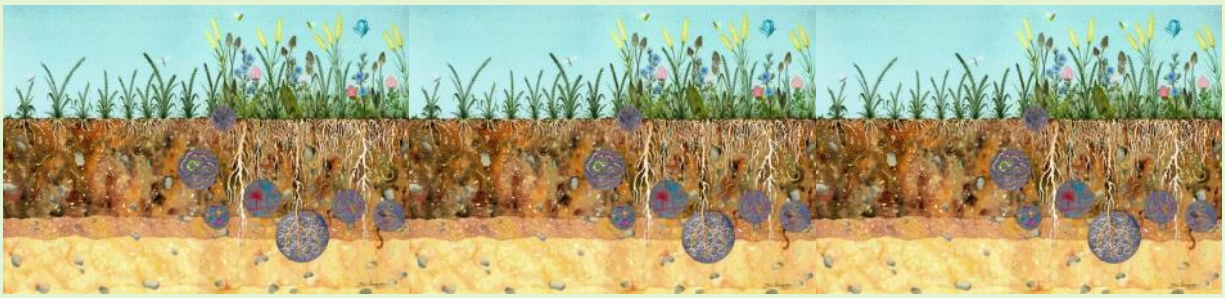
Our August Zoom Program

Soils for Wildlife

Sam Kieschnick
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Fan favorite Sam Kieschnick has a message for us about soil: It's a lot more than just dirt! His ACC presentation (emphasis awareness, appreciation, and action) will portray soil as a living entity — not only the foundation for a healthy ecosystem but an ecosystem within itself. Sam will explore the wildlife that require beneficial soils and suggest ways to make our soil more healthy. Be prepared to see some of the smallest organisms that live where the sun never penetrates. There's a universe under our feet!

Sam is a TPWD urban wildlife biologist serving the Fort Worth-Dallas east side. He previously worked as a nature educator with the city of Mansfield at Oliver Nature Park, as a naturalist at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, as a science interpreter with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, as a BRIT botanist, and as an instructor at Weatherford College. He holds a master's degree from Tarleton State University on the genetics of pocket gophers.



Notes from our last talk

When Michael Smith spoke on reptiles, several points warranted a trip to the Internet — and some followup questions for Michael. In case you're curious, here's more information:

Regarding the problems of the Dunes sagebrush lizard: Find Michael's Green Source article **here**.

For more on the film *Where Did the Horny Toad Go?* **look here**.

Find Michael's Green Source article on horned lizards **here**.

And if you're interested in reptile and amphibian conservation, learn about the Orianne Society **here**.

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

An innovative approach to sustainability is transforming agricultural waste into functional art in Sri Lanka. Used coconut husks — typically discarded after harvesting — are now being repurposed into stylish, durable furniture. The fibers from coconut husks, known as coir, are strong, biodegradable, and ideal for crafting chairs, tables, and decorative pieces. Local artisans and eco-conscious startups have embraced this method, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern design. By reducing the need for wood, this practice helps preserve forests, supports rural economies, and promotes a circular economy. The process not only reduces organic waste but also offers a renewable alternative to timber, significantly cutting down on deforestation. Given that Sri Lanka is one of the world's top coconut producers, the country generates a massive volume of coconut byproducts, making this solution both practical and scalable.

Regional water planning groups in North Texas (Region C) and Northeast Texas (Region D) have reached an agreement in the conflict over the contentious Marvin Nichols Reservoir. The Water Development Board-mediated agreement calls for

- Moving the completion of the proposed Marvin Nichols project from 2050 to 2070.
- No application for permitting Marvin Nichols would occur before 2030.
- Exploration of Toledo Bend as an alternate source for Region C.
- An independent study of the potential benefits and impacts of Marvin Nichols to be completed by July 2027.

Regarding the last bullet, *Preserve Northeast Texas* stresses the need for the study to be conducted "with the utmost rigor and impartiality, ensuring that all potential consequences are evaluated. . . .We are confident the damaging impacts of this reservoir deem this project impractical, unfeasible and unnecessary."

Sheep's wool and human hair could be the secret to better toothpaste. Researchers at King's College London say keratin could be added to commercially available toothpaste or mouthwash within the next 2 to 3 years. Why? Because both sheep's wool and human hair contain the fibrous protein keratin, which can repair damaged tooth enamel, a study found. That's a big deal — once it's lost, enamel can't regenerate on its own. Isn't it gross? Not as gross as tooth decay, which afflicts about 90% of Americans aged 20 to 64. Plus, keratin is a cheap, safe, and abundant material.

Meet moss, the unsung green guardian. Studies show moss can absorb carbon dioxide far more efficiently per gram than trees, thrives in urban environments, and helps fight the urban heat island effect by naturally cooling surfaces. It's also self-

continued on page 8

In Case continued from page 7

sustaining, low-maintenance, and doesn't need fertilizers or irrigation. In cities battling pollution and rising temperatures, **moss could be a game-changer for green architecture —** vertical gardens, eco-walls, shaded walkways. Still, most people scrub it away thinking it's just dirt or decay. Truth is, it could be our greenest ally. Time to rethink moss, not as a pest, but as a climate-smart design feature.

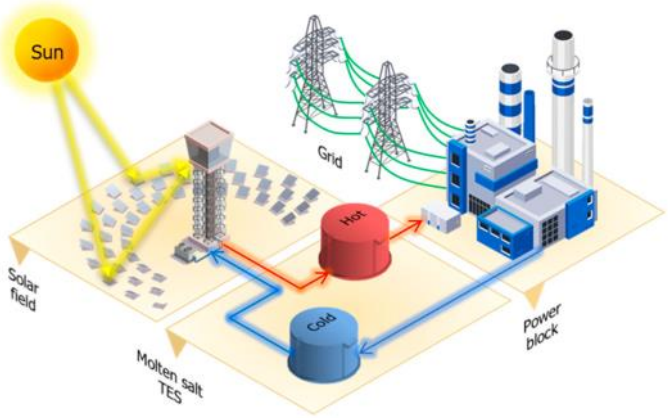
The presidents of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize have signed a tri-national agreement to conserve the Mayan rainforest by creating a nature reserve in the heart of Mesoamerica, a region with the highest biological diversity in the Americas. The **Gran Selva Maya** will preserve 5.7 million hectares (approximately 14 million acres, 21,000

km^2, or more than 8,000 sq.mi.) as a new biocultural corridor to protect the ecological integrity that sustains about 7,000 species — 200 at risk, 50 priority, and 200 endemic from Mexico — through multinational environmental cooperation and law enforcement. The announcement was met with cautious celebration by environmental groups like Mexico-based Selvame, who have sharply criticized the Mexican government and Sheinbaum's allies in recent years for environmental destruction wrought by megaprojects like a controversial train line, known as the Maya Train. The group said in a statement that the reserve was a "monumental step for conservation" but that it hoped that the reserve was more than just "symbolic." "We're in a race against the clock. Real estate and construction companies are invading the jungle, polluting our ecosystems, and endangering both the water we consume, and the communities that depend on it," the group wrote. It called on Sheinbaum's government to put an effective monitoring system in place to "stop any destructive activities."

Germany has flipped the switch on a technology that could solve one of renewable energy's biggest problems, long-term storage, by developing both salt-based thermal energy and air-based batteries.

continued on page 9

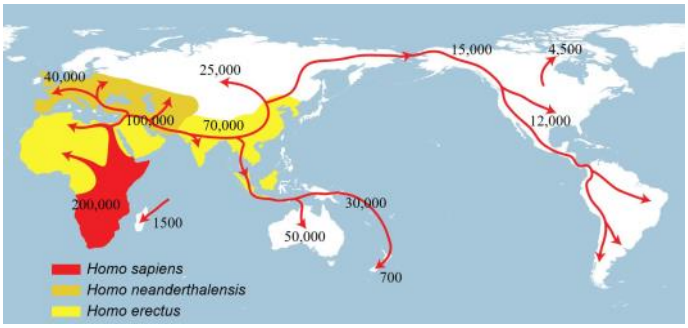
In Case continued from page 8



These technologies aim to provide long-duration, large-scale energy storage to support the transition to renewable energy sources.

The salt-based systems use molten salt to store heat, which can then be used for heating or electricity generation. **Thermal salt systems** can store energy for weeks or even seasons without significant degradation, making them ideal for stabilizing the grid or replacing natural gas in factories. Unlike lithium-ion setups, there's no explosion risk, no rare earth materials, and minimal maintenance. Germany's pilot plant now supplies steady, carbon-free heat to a steel manufacturer, replacing fossil fuels entirely. It's a huge leap in industrial decarbonization — one of the hardest sectors to clean up. And the plant is modular, meaning it can be copied and scaled across Europe. This isn't just storage, it's an energy time machine, storing the sun's power in summer and using it in mid-winter, all without emitting a single gram of CO_2.

In addition, Germany will become home to the world's first commercial-scale **AirBattery**, a long-duration energy storage system developed by Israeli company Augwind Energy. Air-based systems compress air and store it for later use in power generation. The facility will store excess renewable electricity by compressing air into underground salt caverns, then releasing it to generate power when needed.



"Our superpower is that we are ecosystem generalists." — Eleanor Scerri, an evolutionary archaeologist at the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology in Germany, explaining how the adaptability of *Homo sapiens* helped in a global migration 50,000 years ago.

In a case about its Roundup weed killer, Bayer shares fell sharply after the company was ordered to pay $2.1 billion in punitive damages and $65 million in compensatory damages by a jury in a Georgia state court. For years the company has been fighting lawsuits stemming from its 2018, $63 billion acquisition of Monsanto, which developed Roundup. Critics have argued that glyphosate, the active ingredient found in Roundup, causes cancer, though Bayer has long maintained that glyphosate is safe to

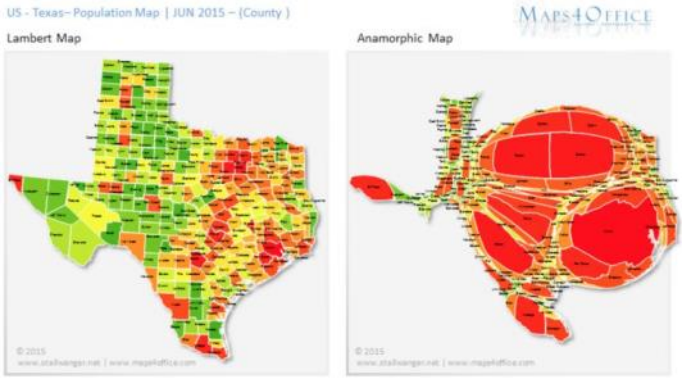
continued on page 10

In Case continued from page 9

use. The company has so far paid around $10 billion to settle disputed claims, though it hopes to appeal the jury's verdict "as it conflicts with the overwhelming weight of scientific evidence and the consensus of regulatory bodies." In similar cases, damages were reduced by 90% overall compared with the original jury awards, said the company.

Vultures have an image problem. Seen as ugly and associated with death, they are among the least loved animals in the world. But conservationists in Africa are trying to change that. A report by BirdLife International estimates that **vultures are worth $1.8 billion per year to certain ecosystems** in southern Africa, which might surprise anyone not familiar with the clean-up, pest control, and anti-poaching work performed by one of the most efficient scavengers on the planet. Research shows that a wake of vultures — the term for a group of feeding vultures —- can strip a decomposing carcass in hours, cleaning up the environment and reducing the chance of disease spreading and the presence of pests like rats and feral dogs. Vultures also have extremely strong stomach acid, don't get food poisoning, and are able to consume and neutralize anthrax, botulism, and other bacteria and toxins in carcasses that would kill other animals.

Conservationists have raised the case of the drastic loss of vultures in India over the last 30 years and how that led to a health crisis: half a million people died because of the spread of bacteria and infections in the absence of vultures.



Why water conservation should begin now. While Texas population is projected to grow to 50 million by 2070, water supply is projected to decrease by roughly 18%, according to the 2022 Texas Water Plan. The state needs to spend more than $150 billion in water and wastewater systems to expand supply and fix old, deteriorating systems. If it does not and is hit by a severe drought, then, by 2050, the state will endure $165 billion in annual GDP losses, according to Jeremy Mazur of Texas 2036, a nonpartisan public policy think tank. Leaving at-risk systems unresolved will cost an additional $320 billion over the next 15 years. "To put it bluntly: Insufficient investment in water infrastructure could very well reverse Texas' economic miracle," Mazur said. [DMN 9/7/25]

Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger

Yard Art.
Our latest neighbors
don't like recycling.
Or trash cans.

Our aluminum
recycling rate is down,
But the benefits are
still way up.

Come on, guys.

Visit ACC's Facebook page and Discussion Group

Convenience at a Cost

Seems like only yesterday
porches weren't overrun
by home delivery boxes.
That must come with a
big impact, just in boxes.
Now here's a box notice
and a website, of course,
with lots of great news
about a thing that rarely
used to happen at all.

Turk's cap.

Silent Drama at the Moth Lights

Recently a Leafhopper
assassin bug pierced,
liquefied, and dined on a
fly as moths mesmerized
by UV lights ignored it all.
These predators are now
everywhere, introduced
accidentally (?) and eating
pests from Samoa to Spain.
But it's native to North
and Central America.

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

ACC Heritage Trees

From Guy Random: Wait a minute now. You mean I'm the only one again this month who's squandering brain cells on Heritage Trees? Okay, this is it; I'm done, and if nobody else steps up, so be it. Fin, finis, the end.

Meanwhile, here's a fine but ignored Live oak thriving in a tiny triangle of dirt surrounded by concrete and asphalt.

On the plus side, this oak is just downwind of Gilberto's Taco Shop #2. It's likely that the flavorful fumes from this bistro may account for the tree's robust health. Must be that mild green salsa. After all, it's green and so is the oak.

Stands to reason.

Question Corner John Darling

We're sorry, Professor Corner is still mentally in New Mexico, smelling Ponderosa trunks. Meanwhile, just to fill the void, here's some Snow on the Prairie from the Blackland Prairie Preserve.

The *Post Oak* will not knowingly accept sponsors who are deceptive, misleading, or expressly incompatible with its mission. The *Post Oak* does not endorse, advocate, or guarantee any offer, viewpoint or representation made by its sponsors.

Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop
Arlington, TX
1660 W. Randol Mill Rd.
(817) 275-1000
Shop Online for Home Delivery or Store Pickup
mywbu.com/arlingtontx

Green Arlington Foundation
Supporting local sustainability
P.O. Box 264
Arlington TX 76004-0264
Green Arlington.org
214-709-8791

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.
John DYCUS
3607 Shady Park Drive
Arlington, TX 76013
(817) 277-2138
john@xdycus.com

Paul Knudsen's ArlingtoNOW.com Event Photography
Portfolio_Studio@yahoo.com
817.265.4441

Law Office of
SHANE GOETZ
3705 N Shadycreek Dr
Arlington, TX 76013
shane@goetzlawtx.com
817-265-2902
Fax: 817-549-4438

Herb 'n Health
Natural Foods Market & Herb Shoppe
3759 E. Lancaster St. Ft. Worth Tx. 76103
Karen Foley 817-535-1152

LIVEABLE ARLINGTON
Working Toward a Healthy Community
On a
Liveable Planet
Connect with us at
https://www.liveablearlington.org
info@liveablearlington.org

Large milkweed bug. Dick Schoech.

The Page with No Name

Report from the field

Ivan Querido

So what is it this time? Our lawyer got it down to simple misdemeanor assault. Your Special Correspondent was lurching around on a sidewalk and yelling at some poor schmo who wanted to hit a lizard with a shovel. In his own yard, no less. Of course a neighbor called the cops. And the TV news was having a slow day. No! I'm telling you, if he weren't your aunt's cousin's nephew, I'd stick him in Guantanamo myself.

Ha! Just try it, you spineless philistines! May all the Texas fence lizards in this abiotic wasteland rise up and regurgitate half-digested kissing bugs onto your unseeing eyeballs! A shovel, can you believe it? And he had the nerve to think he was not subhuman. Environmental harmony? Not until we confiscate their shovels, and even then, I despair.

BOBCAT

Today as I go walking
In the park beside the river,
At every bend along the trail
There is a tantalizing chance
I'll meet a bobcat padding lazily,
Its every movement eloquent of wild.

Snowy egrets with dagger beaks
Stalk our backyard ponds
When fifty years ago
I used to only hear of them
Surviving deep
Within the Everglades.

In the news this week
I saw that coyotes now
Are entertaining cats for brunch
And taking dachshunds out to dine
Around a lakeshore neighborhood
Not far enough from here.

The edge between the wild and us
Is fading to inconsequence;
And though this represents
A certain kind of victory,
It's a sea change in relationships
I doubt we're really ready for.

©2006 John I. Blair

The Trolling for New Members Page

Blackland Prairie Preserve.

My Nature Notebook

Kind of a Godzilla bug

Big surprise! We were just sneaking out of the Creepy Old Guy's yard when he hollered at us to come look at a bug on a sheet by his goofy purple lights. He said hey watch this Four-spotted mantidfly catch a tiny bug with those funny front legs. And you should really like what the young ones do to spiders. They ride around on the mother spider, and some might suck their blood — it's not exactly blood — before they feed on the spider eggs. Some just dig into the egg sac, and others slip in just as the mother spider is making the sac. Spider eggs for breakfast, huh? No? Well just go home then.

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

Why join ACC? Their stuff is free.

Sure, the educational meetings and the newsletters 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

In addition to the usual weeding, deadheading and watering, the greenhouse took on propagating little bluestem for the prairie project, and the dry weather was conducive to Whiz-Q Stone delivering at last the large stones for the Molly and Lee Hollar memorials.

North Prairie installation

Josephine Keeney and the greenhouse team have taken on the task of propagating Little bluestem for the prairie project. Using seed purchased from Native American Seed, they prepared 240 pots in anticipation of planting them come mid-fall. 240 little bluestems will certainly help fill in the open areas on the eastern half of the prairie, which is still in need of prairie grasses. In addition, plans have been made for the greenhouse crew to eventually propagate forbs using seeds harvested during several of the plant rescues this past year.

Ann Knudsen surveys the many pots recently seeded with Little bluestem. Marian Hiler photo.

There's more to weeding than removing weeds

Not everyone enjoys weeding. And for those few who do, probably not nearly as much as Lynn "I love to weed" Chen does. Besides the satisfying experience of clearing an area of invasives, she is also rewarded for getting up close to the ground. Lynn espies small creatures crawling through the leaves and across the ground, the critters we don't usually notice while walking upright. In between pulling weeds, she takes beautiful close-up photos of these amazing little invertebrates then uploads them on iNat as lynnwchen. See a few of Lynn's photos on the next page.

continued on page 19

Right, Lynn Chen in her happy place among the weeds and little critters. Marylee Thomason photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 18, continued on page 20

Above, A Fork-tailed bush katydid on a Zexmenia flower. A Glassy-winged sharpshooter feeds on plant fluids in the xylem. *Below,* The more artsy-looking nymph of a Red-shouldered stink bug. Adult Red-shouldered stink bug. Lynn Chen photos.

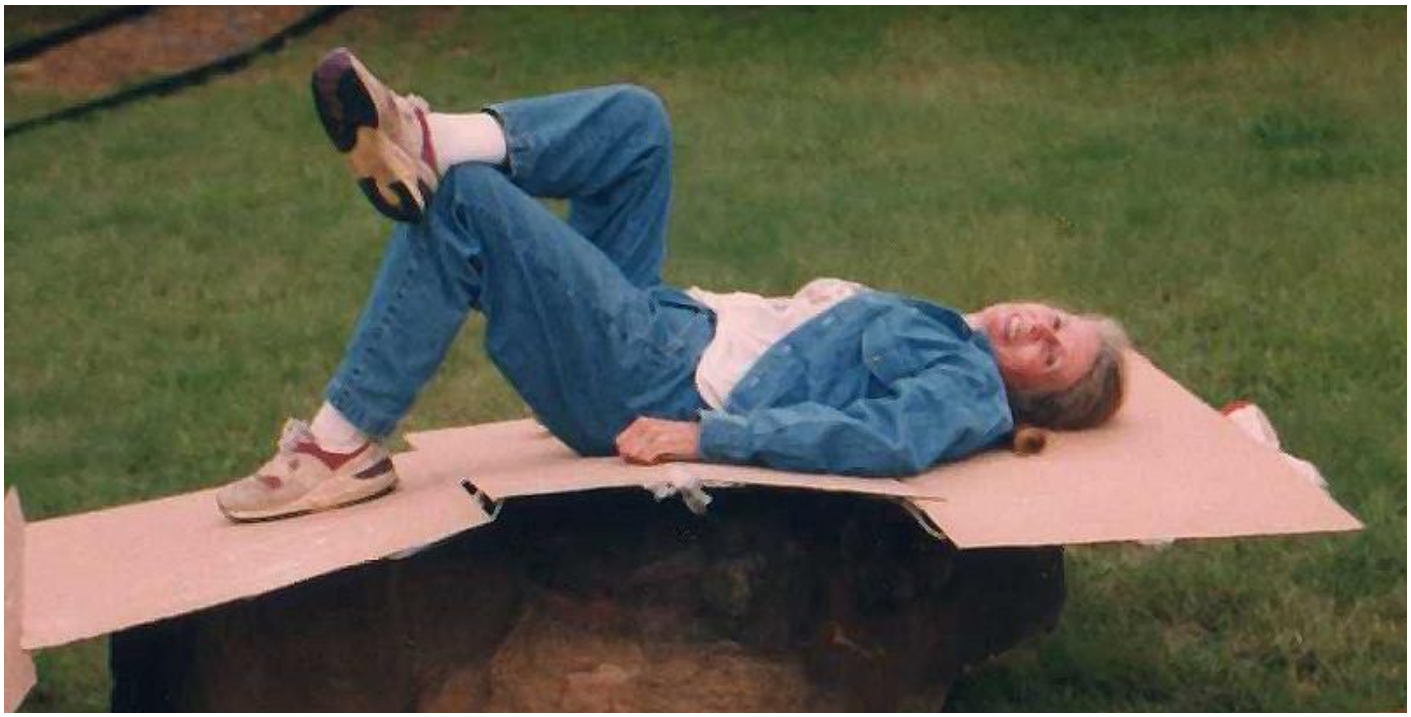
Wildscape Update continued from page 19, continued on page 21

Hollar Memorial Benches

Molly Hollar loved big, beautiful stones. She dreamed about having sofa-sized ones installed in the wildscape so visitors would have a peaceful spot to pause and connect with nature. Her dream finally came true when Whiz-Q recently delivered two such stones to spots along the sidewalk on the southern edge of the woodland area. The benches are the perfect memorial for Molly and her son Lee Hollar. Members of Molly and Lee's family – including 3 of Molly's daughters who live in town – were there to welcome the stone benches to their new home.

Speaking for the family, Cindy Hollar Underwood said: "We're so grateful to the wildscape for allowing us to have such a wonderful way to memorialize both Mom and our brother Lee. The wildscape brought Mom so much joy. She would rather have worked there than anywhere else in the world. I mean, it was just her passion. Her vehicle for being part of the solution doing something about the environment, which was her central concern for coming generations. The day that the stones were set, I went back out there to take more pictures to send to my siblings. But it was very emotional for me because, first of all, I think they're just indescribably beautiful. And second of all, they're just so perfect for both of them because they were nature people, especially Mom who spent so much time there."

Whether you had the joy of meeting Molly or only heard stories about her, you will enjoy watching this brief TPWD video on Texas Wildscapes. It includes an almost 2-minute section of Molly talking about the benefits of wildscapes. Enjoy!



Molly couldn't hide her delight over one of the first large stones installed at the wildscape entrance.

Wildscape Update continued from page 20, continued on page 22

Clockwise from above left, Forklift operator positions Molly's stone. Marian Hiler photo. Sisters Gail Hollar, Susan Hollar and Cindy Underwood. Kent Underwood photo. Family members admiring Molly's bench. *At left,* Cindy Underwood. *In front,* Susan Hollar's grandchildren, Susan Hollar, and Sam Absher. *In back,* Sarah Hixson and Kent Underwood. Marian Hiler photo. Cindy and Kent Underwood are thrilled with Lee Hollar's stone. Marian Hiler photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 21, continued on page 23

Above left, The four wooden benches in the wildscape got a makeover by Juan Gonzales and his APRD crew. Carol Marcotte photo. *Above right,* Melanie Harris trims the salvia coccinea by a third so it doesn't get leggy. Marian Hiler photo. *Below,* Bonnie Garcia, Cindy Underwood, and Chris Raney remove the spent Canada wild rye to spread the seeds along the creek. Ann Knudsen photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 22

Above left, Common buckeye nectaring on Turk's cap. Lynn Chen photo. *Above right,* A tiny Reakirt's blue, a well-known vagrant butterfly, on Frogfruit. Lynn Chen photo. *Below,* On an especially hot day, Marylee Thomason, Lynn Chen and Chris Raney collect seeds of the Black-eyed Susan then sow in the west garden area. Marian Hiler photo.

continued on page 24

Wildscape Update continued from page 23, continued on page 25

Above left, Bonnie Garcia carefully removes the sharp pointy agarita clippings. Marian Hiler photo. *Above right,* Marylee Thomason found a small but shady spot to weed. Marian Hiler photo. *Below left,* Joe Martinez faithfully keeps the pond clear of debris. Ann Knudsen photo. *Below right,* Marian Hiler cuts back the encroaching Bermuda in the lonesome oak area. Ann Knudsen photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 24, continued on page 26

First Saturday mini-classes

At the **August 2** mini-class "Managing Urban Wildlife in DFW", Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Urban Wildlife Biologist Rachel Richter and summer intern Emma Davis reviewed projects they are working on. Rachel covers the western half of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, while her colleague Sam Kieschnick handles the eastern half. Included in their responsibilities are outreach (educational talks, city council presentations, social media, media inquiries) and technical guidance for property managers to improve wildlife habitats.

Emma talked about the ongoing projects she is participating in. One of the main ones is the Urban Wildlife Information Network. They have set up game cams in the transect that goes from downtown Fort Worth all the way out to Azle to collect valuable data on how wildlife interacts with and adapts to urban spaces including natural areas and private ranches. She also took part in alligator surveys at Lake Worth with a game warden, discovering that alligators exist in the DFW area, though many residents are unaware of their presence.

At the mini-class scheduled for **September 6,** Sam Kieschnick gave us interesting insight on moths and other nocturnal critters and their importance to our local ecosystem.

A bonus to the Sept 6 mini-class was the evening program that started at 8 pm at the wildscape the same day. Nine blacklighting stations (or UV lights and sheets) were set up to attract nocturnal insects.

As Emma listens, Rachel explains why it's crucial not to purposefully feed wild animals. Marian Hiler photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 25, continued on page 27

Volunteer Opportunities

New summer hours

9 – 12 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**

Above, Sideoats grama shows off its beautiful bright red flowers. Ann Knudsen photo. *Left,* A Tripartite sweat bee pollinates a Zexmenia. Ann Knudsen photo. Below, Spot-necked kuschelina, a species of flea beetle. Lynn Chen photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 26

See the picture Gallery of all plants at the Plants Sale :

thewildscape.org/plantsale

Purple Coneflower

Plant Sale features

The sale features a large variety of plant species grown organically at the Greenhouse by Wildscape volunteers, including: Ground Covers, Perennials, Shrubs, Vines and Trees.

- Grown organically from local stock
- No need for pesticides or fertilizers
- Adapted to our climate
- Many plants able to handle drought

Flame Acanthus

Social Media? Yup.

Be sure to visit

ACC's Facebook page

(849 followers)
and
Discussion Group

(147 members)

What do you want to talk about today?

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

Save the Date: Bats of the Area and How to Find Them, September 6, 7 pm at SCNP

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

Bat night 2024.

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

We will meet in the amphitheater that overlooks the south pond. You might want to bring bug spray and water, and a good flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries for getting back to the parking lot at the end of the evening.

Third Saturday Volunteers

After taking off July and August, the Third Saturday Volunteers are back at work in September.

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.

Meet in the parking lot. Bring gloves, bug repellent, sunscreen, and water.

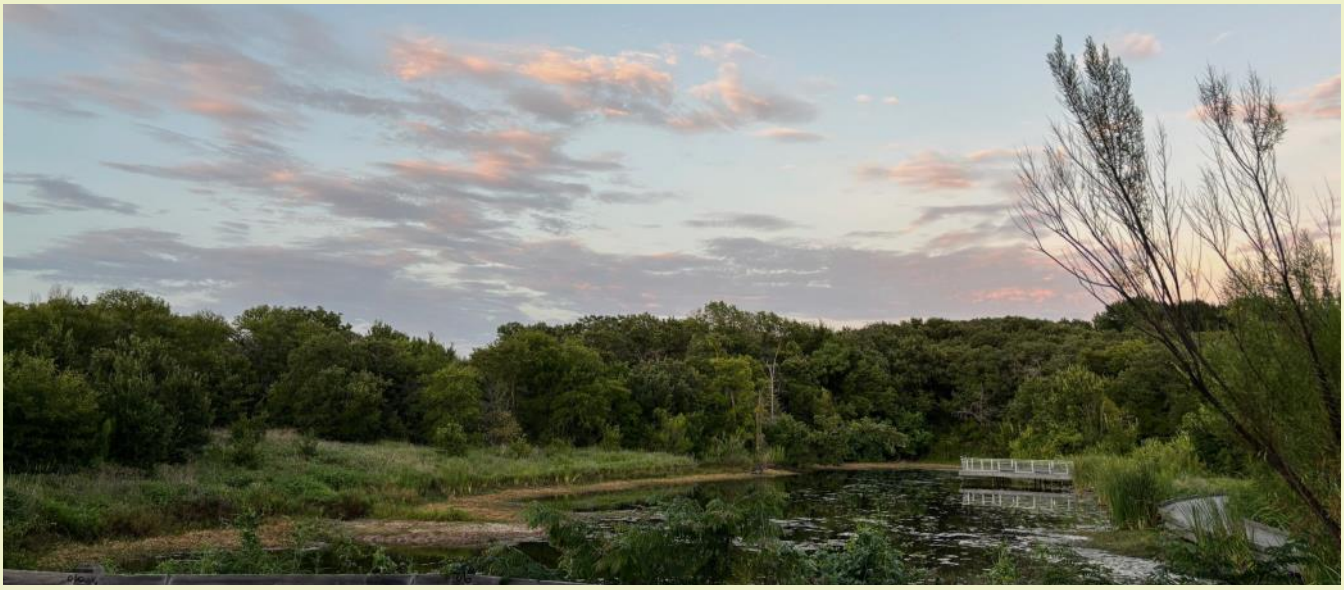
Volunteer day June 2025.

Next Date - September 20, 9 am.

continued on page 30

SCNP continued from page 29

July 28, at Night Michael Smith



South Pond at sunset. Michael Smith photo.

I wanted to see if there was any frog activity, though really I missed the best chances back in April and May. But Cricket frogs call and breed throughout the year, and it's always fun to see the preserve at night.

But the planned time only involved a little bit of "night." Who planned this thing, anyway? Oh yeah, I did — but starting at 8:00 pm means starting a little before sunset this time of year. And it was kind of hot, and kind of muggy, but that didn't stop the six of us from taking a walk.

We looked for turtles at the South Pond, and we saw several heads pop up at the surface to get a breath of air. And we spotted a couple of juvenile Red-eared sliders cruising along the algae mats near the boardwalk. In the photos you can catch a glimpse of that red patch behind the eye that gives this subspecies its name.

continued on page 31

The first Red-eared slider. Michael Smith photo.

The second of those baby turtles. Michael Smith photo.

SCNP continued from page 30

July 28, at Night

We didn't see frogs at that pond (though we briefly heard some Cricket frogs calling), so we headed for the north pond. Past the parking lot, at the trailhead, an Eastern cottontail was getting ready for its nighttime adventures. My photo is not well-focused; Robbie's was better. The rabbit sat warily but wasn't spooked. He or she has probably seen lots of people before.

Eastern cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus* – robbielc "Eastern cottontail"

At the north pond, we again did not see frogs. But it was getting dark, and along the ground my headlamp began to reflect tiny greenish pinpoints of light. These were my light reflected in the eyes of all the Wolf spiders that hunt at night. They really won't bother you, and hopefully seeing all those glistening jewels in the leaf litter wouldn't creep anyone out. If we bothered them by grabbing one, it might bite but it would be nothing serious — medically insignificant.

A Wolf spider that I found by following the reflected eyeshine. Michael Smith photo.

At the big pond, Glenn found a Striped Bark scorpion and made the little guy fluoresce by shining a UV light on it. The scorpion made a pretty little outline along the ground.

There were a few Cricket frogs calling, again only very briefly. We had to separate them from the chorus of cicadas and other insects. What an interesting little concerto of several insect species with their own distinctive voices. It made the walk back very pleasant.

I'd like to try this again before long. Maybe we can pick the least hot and humid night we can find in August and get a little later start, and listen to the songs of the night.

continued on page 32

SCNP continued from page 31

SCNP iNaturalist Observations and Species — July 2025

July was a good month for iNat Observations, aided by two walks that Michael Smith led. And we had some "new" observers: tmeas, landobaggins, robbielc, lemonl, dbills22, jlkphotography, and ryan_diaz. We hope they'll come back again.

Numbers for July:
315 Observations, 207 Species, 16 Observers.
Totals for SCNP at the end of July: 24,278 Observations, 2,119 Species.

Maroon-legged Lion Fly *(Promachus hinei)* - sam_dragon-moore, *Acmaeodera obtusa* - sam_dragon-moore, Comanche Skimmer *(Libellula comanche)* - jocobirder

Mozena obtusa - sam_dragon-moore, Pale-bordered Field Cockroach *(Pseudomops septentrionalis)* - sam_dragon-moore, Passionflower Flea Beetle (*Disonycha discoidea)* - landobaggins

Blackland Prairie Preserve Guy Random

Early September:
Sad to see long-dead beebalm.
And think back to spring.
But all those grasses!
Just bursting, no exploding
With precious cargo.

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 _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

Email _____

First-year member $10

Individual $15

Family $25

Supporting $40

Sponsor $100

Lifetime Individual $250

Other $_____

New Member ☐

Renewing member ☐

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.

President Dick Schoech
Vice President vacant
Treasurer Marian Hiler

Secretary Jamie Brunner
Webmaster Frank Keeney
Editor John Darling

Board Members
Grace Darling
John Dycus
Elin Jacks
Hester Schwarzer

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

Our August Zoom Meeting

See page 6 for more on this meeting.