

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 9

NOVEMBER 2025



POST OAKS ALONG WEST STREET • GUY RANDOM PHOTO

November Zoom Meeting



Read more about this program on page 6

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85695132935>

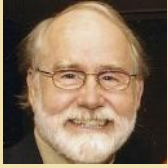
For assistance accessing the meeting, contact Frank Keeney,
webmaster@acctexas.org

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

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From the President **Dick Schoech**



Mental Health and Nature

ACC envisions a future where people support nature and nature supports our minds and bodies. One aspect of that support is mental health. Global chaos is taking its toll, especially on youth who struggle to find meaning in today's rapidly changing world. 13.9% of the world's population experienced mental disorders in 2021, resulting in negative health and economic impacts for individuals and the broader society.¹

One measure of mental health is the suicide rate. Suicide remains the second leading cause of death for young people ages 10-24, rising from 6.8 deaths per 100,000 in 2007 to 11.0 per 100,000 in 2021. In 2021 the suicide rate was 29.6 deaths per 100,000 population for men aged 55 and older, while the women's rate in the same age group was 6.2.²

In 2020 only 20.3% of adults had received any mental health treatment in the past 12 months; 16.5% had taken prescription medication for their mental health, and 10.1% had received counseling or therapy from a mental health professional.³

Many mental health medications exist, but often the side effects are difficult to tolerate. The medications' overall success is around 50-60%. Talk therapy offers a safe and professional setting for working through life's stresses, but it's expensive and therapists are in short supply. The talk therapy success rate of 75% depends on problem severity and many other factors.

The connection between nature and positive mental health is well documented. Walking, observing, or meditating in nature provides an accessible, low-cost experience that reduces stress and anxiety and can foster a sense of belonging to something larger than oneself. One review of nature-based interventions found improved mental health outcomes across 98% of studies. Physical and cognitive outcomes showed improvement in 83% and 75% of studies, respectively.⁴

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ACC POST OAK

Our mission: ACC works to protect Arlington's natural environment through education, community service, and advocacy for a sustainable future

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From the President continued from page 3

So why are nature-based interventions not recommended more often? One (cynical) reason is that nature is free or low cost, making it difficult for the medical profession to profit from it as a cure. Our healthcare system writes prescriptions for medications and talk therapy but rarely for nature activities. That society values money more than nature is evident in Arlington's entertainment district. Take a walk around. As measured by spending, we value sports facilities and entertainment much higher than immersing in nature on the few remaining paths.

Cities are losing natural areas that benefit mental health to urban development that often contributes negatively to mental health. Nature organizations are rarely funded or promoted for mental health improvement.⁵ ACC applauds efforts that would preserve the remaining nature in Arlington, but they seem to be losing out as residents continue to value being online more than being outdoors.

Additional information

1. <https://www.healthdata.org/research-analysis/health-topics/mental-health#:~:text=13.9%2525%20of%20the%20world's%20population,to%20mental%20disorders%20in%202021>
2. <https://jasonfoundation.com/youth-suicide/facts-stats/>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db419.htm>
4. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9754067/>
5. <https://www.childrenandnature.org/resources/fnn-nature-as-healer-building-a-movement-for-childrens-mental-health-in-nature/>

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Positivity **John Dycus and John Darling**

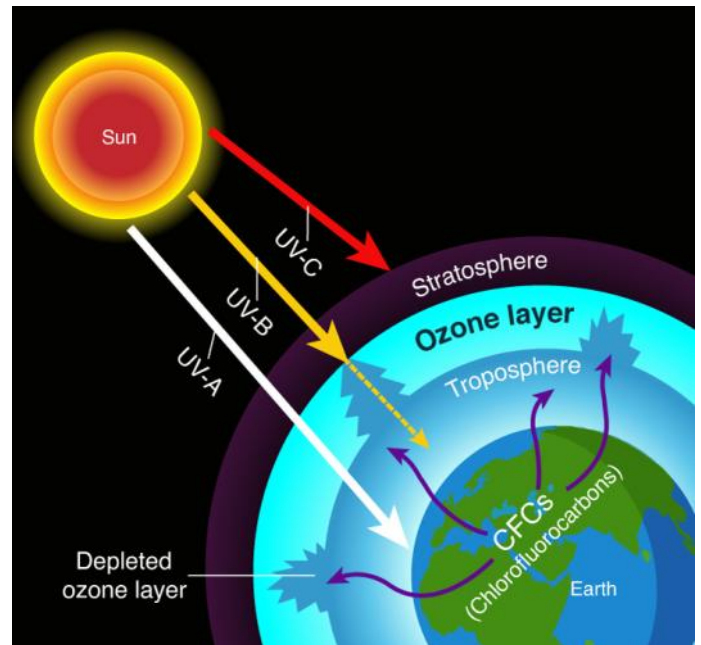
Here is more positive environmental news, thanks again to John Dycus. Like me, he sees way too many negative developments, but he has answers as you see on this page. Why don't you try it? See something positive you like? Send [me](#) a link to something good. Just try to spot new things so we don't repeat ourselves.



We've heard about making electrical energy from ocean waves for years, but that turns out to be hard, as many failed ventures can attest. Now, though, Eco Wave Power may be on the right path. [More here.](#)



It seems like all the news from the Amazon is bad, but here's a happy exception: Climate change appears to be making large trees over 3 percent larger per decade for the last three decades. And bigger trees store more carbon. [Learn more.](#)



The United Nations says Earth's [ozone layer is healing](#) thanks to international action. A predicted return to 1980s levels would mean lower risks of skin cancer, cataracts, and ecosystem damage.



[Green bus stops](#) are spreading, not just in Europe, but also in a few places in Asia and North America. At a minimum, they feature vegetated roofs, and they may also have pollinator-friendly plants around them. These small spaces can have a large effect.

Our November Zoom Meeting

The Wonderful World of Bats

Hester Schwarzer and Ellen Ravkind

How many flying mammals are there? Take a guess. Time's up. One. Bat enthusiasts Hester Schwarzer and Ellen Ravkind will fill in the (numerous!) gaps in your bat knowledge, including that bats come in all sizes, have a variety of diets and roosting locations, and greatly benefit mankind as voracious suppertime insect feeders. Bats are well known in Texas through their massive colonies and chiropterologists' (professional and amateur) outstanding rehabilitation efforts. Local investigations are expanding our knowledge of North Central Texas bat populations, and Hester and Ellen will do the same for you.

Hester grew up in East Texas loving the outdoors. She earned a double major in education and environmental science from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and subsequently taught elementary school for three decades. In retirement she devotes much of her time to volunteering on naturalist projects and in education. Hester is a certified Master Naturalist and a Master Gardener.

Ellen hails from Western New York and as a girl lived on family property in Chautauqua County near Westfield, where her love of nature and bats originated. She earned her doctorate from the UT Health Science Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Department of Physiology. Ellen started working at River Legacy Foundation in summer camps in 2015 and was hired as a full-time naturalist in 2017 and subsequently became the public programs manager/environmental educator. Ellen enjoys sharing her knowledge with people of all ages.



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



Just in: The Trump administration plans to open up Alaskan wilderness to energy and infrastructure development, including **oil and gas drilling in the remote Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**. The full 1.56-million-acre Coastal Plain of the refuge along the Beaufort Sea is estimated to have recoverable oil as well as being home to polar bears, porcupine caribou, migratory birds, whales, seals, and many other wildlife species. Canceled oil and gas leases will be restored and necessary permits reissued to establish the Ambler Road Project, a controversial proposal for a [211-mile gravel road](#), part of which will be [built through](#) the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, a pristine stretch of coastal wildlands in southwestern Alaska. Once built, the road would endanger more than 200,000 migratory birds that cross through the refuge annually, among other wildlife. The refuge has one of the largest carbon-storing eelgrass beds in the world. Prior administrations concluded repeatedly that bulldozing a road through Izembek would cause permanent harm to wildlife habitat and is not in the public interest. The project would also threaten multiple indigenous tribes that rely on the area for hunting and fishing. At least 39 of Alaska's interior villages and 37 tribes [oppose](#) the road. [theguardian.com, 10/23/25; biologicaldiversity.org, 10/24/25]



“The air is killing us,” say residents of Delhi, the world's most polluted city, so the Indian ruling party is proposing cloud-seeding to bring rain and try to wash out the brown haze that makes people sick. This week, Delhi's air quality index went as high as 1,700 in some parts of the city (the WHO deems the maximum index deemed healthy is 50). A recent study calculated that the 30 million people living in and around the capital could have almost 12 years taken off their lives due to its catastrophic health impacts. But government leaders should tackle transport and heavy industry rather than quick fixes, experts say. “We have to stop treating air pollution as a winter problem or a farmer problem,” said a Greenpeace South Asia official. “The high pollution . . . is coming from the transportation sector and the millions of cars on the roads; it's coming from coal-burning power plants; it's coming from waste that is piling up in Delhi's landfills or being burned; it's coming from all this non-stop construction of highways and flyovers. Until we target all of those sectors, we will never get cleaner air.” Stay tuned. [theguardian.com, 11/22/24, 10/24/25]

Tracked monarchs are choosing a specific route through Texas. Maps of radio-tagged monarchs show the south-migrating butterflies crossing Texas over the plains region rather than

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In Case continued from page 7



following a straight line through the state. Observers interpret this as some degree of landscape selection, choosing not only the grassier regions but also consistent with their journey north's roosts. They seem to anticipate the route and make the course correction before they reach our northern border. Weather events may influence the westerly shift in the monarchs' migration route, but the full answer of factors guiding their path is still a mystery.



In partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife and other nonprofit organizations, the ectotherm team at the Dallas Zoo has wrapped up another successful breed-and-release season, **releasing 360 baby Texas horned lizards** into their native habitats. Since May, the team has cared for hundreds of these tiny, spiky Texans from hatch, tracking their growth and preparing them for life in the wild. These babies

come from eggs laid by gravid females from the [Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation](#), where the team makes regular trips to tag and monitor the local horned lizard population. Some gravid females are temporarily brought back to the zoo to lay their eggs, then returned to the exact spot they were found. The eggs are incubated and hatched to contribute to the release program that aims to restore horned lizard populations across the state. [Dallas Zoo on fB, 10/28/25]



Shazam! Denton ranks first in nation for pollinator observations, read the headline. After a month-long competition, Denton has been named first in the nation for pollinator observations during the National Recreation and Park Association's biodiversity event, BioBlitz. Throughout September, more than 300 volunteer pollinator observers across the city documented insects, plants, hummingbirds, bees and other species that support the local ecosystem. Using the iNaturalist app, participants recorded and shared their findings with naturalists

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across the country, contributing to a growing network of citizen scientists. Way to go, Dentonites, you rock!

The Xerces Blue Butterfly, once a stunning symbol of nature's beauty, is now lost forever due to human impact. It was the first U.S. insect to be driven to extinction by factors such as habitat destruction and pollution. A poignant reminder of the importance of protecting our ecosystems and the creatures that inhabit them. Let's work together to preserve the fragile balance of nature. [fB, 10/30/25]

Shameless plug alert: Earlier this month, [WildCareOklahoma](https://wildcareoklahoma.org) received thrilling news — they were selected as one of only five animal welfare finalists in North America for the Land Rover Defender Service Award, chosen from among hundreds of incredible nonprofits across the continent. Even more exciting, after a round of public voting, they learned that WildCare Oklahoma is one of the top two finalists. The winner will be announced on November 15, 2025, at the Destination Defender event in Temecula, California. The award includes a brand-new Defender 130 vehicle and a \$30,000 grant, generously provided by Disney. If won, the grant from this award will pay for half of the materials needed for the University of Oklahoma School of Architecture to build a first-of-its-kind **bat and chimney swift enclosure** — their 5th year design/build project for 2025/2026. If you want to support the bat enclosure, consider buying a bat adoption kit for yourself or someone you love during this holiday season at wildcareoklahoma.org.

By a vote of 25–72, the U.S. Senate has allowed **the killing of 450,000 barred owls** to move forward. These birds—long protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—will be shot across national parks and forests under a plan falsely framed as “conservation.” The plan, pushed by the timber industry and the Interior Department, turns the Endangered Species Act on its head—killing one native species to “save” another, while greenlighting massive logging of old-growth forests. Animal Wellness Action is pursuing a legal action in a U.S. District Court in Portland, Ore., seeking to scrap the Barred Owl Management Strategy as a violation of federal law.

In the Good News category, **Arlington welcomes back Gary Packan** as its new director of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department. Since his previous tenure as assistant director of APRD from 2007 to 2018, Gary has served as Denton’s Parks and Recreation director, where he oversaw a department with a \$27 million budget, more than 300 employees, and Denton’s 5,500-acre park system. Arlington is home to 100 parks, six recreation centers, four public golf courses, numerous open spaces, miles of hike and bike trails, a recreational lake and other amenities. “I look forward to once again being a part of the dedicated team of men and women who work every day to make Arlington’s parks and recreational spaces special for both residents and visitors,” Packan said. We look forward to working with Gary and his staff in protecting and maintaining the city’s natural areas and wild spaces.

Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



Best handicapped parking space sign?

Or is the vegetation getting in the way of the message?

Easier to like if all that green stuff was native chlorophyll.

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

A Wasp We Can Get behind



Here's a Gold-marked thread-waisted wasp that Ann Knudsen photographed at the wildscape. We keep hearing that wasps are important pollinators, and this is a good example. Learn more about this widespread species [here](#).



Bordered patch larvae.

Best Out-of-control Grapevine



Of course this won't qualify as much of a natural area, but this grapevine on Mary Street near Abram should win something for sheer exuberance. Unless you're that engulfed tree (or trees?), then you might object. Still, life is where you find it, and here's plenty.

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



ACC Heritage Trees

From Dick Schoech: A fine Chinquapin oak near the Lotus Marsh pavilion at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. *Guy Random:* Well, my Chinquapin is about four feet tall, so this one looks huge and wonderful, but how does it compare? The Texas Big Tree Registry says our State Champion is 69 feet tall. If that picnic table is 30" high, Dick's tree is about 25 feet tall. That's close to the low end of the mature size in Texas, according to [one A&M website](#). On the other hand, Lady Bird says they can reach 45 to 110 feet. Now why is that range so big? Short ones in the drier West, and tall ones in Southeast Texas? Some of this tree stuff is harder than it should be, but there's no denying the appeal of Dick's Chinquapin.



Question Corner Professor J. Lewis Corner

Q: Look, a strange old guy on my street has this crazy yard with no grass. It's a mess of bushes and little trees and who knows what's in there. You know, a disgrace to the neighborhood. I told him how much we'd all appreciate it if he cleaned up his act, but he gave me big attitude, so I snapped and called Code Enforcement. They didn't do enough, he just cut stuff back from the curb, and it's still ridiculous. What am I going to do?

A: I was worried by your question, so I looked at your neighborhood. What did I see? A patchwork of vacant lots and rental houses dominated by a monolithic apartment building. Lots of mostly dead lawns, one sterile landscaped lot, and one wild and overgrown with bird feeders and water. I can guess who you are, but who else is offended? Now I'm concerned about you. Looks like your mind has all the complexity of his curb line. Next!



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Hairy hexagonia, possibly.

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

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Working Toward a Healthy Community
On a
Liveable Planet

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The Page with No Name

Report from the Field

Ivan Querido

*So what happened with Querido's assault /
shovel / lizard / trespassing thing. Better yet,
don't tell me.*

*Relax, our lawyer got him house arrest, so how
much trouble can he get into?*

Trouble? How can there be trouble when
my field is my front steps only? They say
just calm down and take pictures of
moths, you'll like it, but no, it's carnage!
Sure, leave the light on and hope the
birds don't crash! But now it's an
ecosystem of death! All the horrible
spiders and those geckos! Hey, moths,
why don't you come by for dinner? Bah!



WHAT COULD BE MORE ANTITHETICAL

What could be more antithetical than
An egret flapping alone across our
parking lot?

The egret's all elegance and sinuosity,
Spotless, soft, antediluvian grace;

The parking lot's all brittle concrete,
Stamped steel, stone, sterility.

Yet for the egret the hot air rising
From the pavement helps it stay aloft;

And for the parking lot — well, with
An egret for our eyes, why care?

©2004 John I. Blair



Liveable Arlington



The EPA is proposing a rollback of key parts of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

(GHGRP). This proposal could permanently alter reporting requirements for

major polluting industries and suspend emissions reporting in the oil and gas sector until 2034.

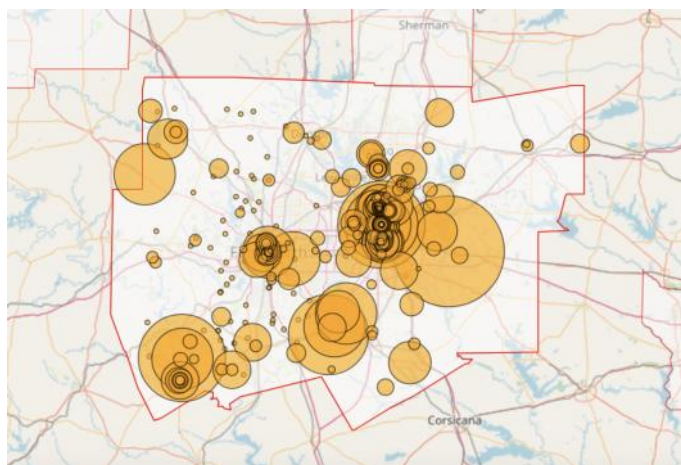
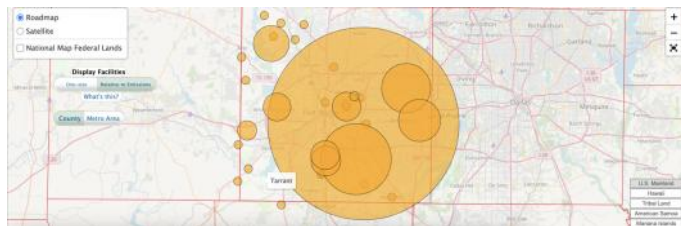
The data gathered by this program is critical for policymakers to hold polluters accountable. Many corporate interests and investors also rely on this data to monitor if industries are meeting their greenhouse gas reduction goals.

According to the International Energy Agency, **Texas led the nation in reported greenhouse gas emissions** in 2023 with almost 700 million metric tons reported. This figure is **more than double that of California**, the second highest greenhouse gas emitting state.

Forty percent of all US greenhouse gas emissions are from suppliers of fossil fuels and industrial gases. Texas is number one in oil and gas production, and in methane emissions, a major contributor to climate change.

The maps from the EPA's GHGRP data show industries responsible for emissions in Tarrant County, and in the rest of Dallas-Fort Worth. The first map shows polluters in Tarrant County — the biggest circle represents the largest emitter — the **Handley power plant at Rosedale and 820 near the western border of Arlington**. Other circles show fracking infrastructure like compressor stations, landfills, and other major polluters.

The second map shows major GHG emissions reported for all of Dallas-Fort Worth.



The EPA is **accepting public comment on this proposal till November 3rd**.

We have compiled key arguments against this rollback below.

Talking Points

- Accurate data is critical for policymakers to cut climate-damaging methane and carbon emissions, as well as smog-forming and hazardous air pollution from oil and gas operations.
- Eliminating the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program will undermine climate action and **increase the health risks in frontline communities in Tarrant County and the Barnett Shale**.
- Texas produces more greenhouse gas emissions than any other state in the nation, more than double that of the second leading state of California.
- Texas leads the country in oil and gas production producing 40% of the nation's energy. **Texas**

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Liveable Arlington continued from page 14

leads in the amount of methane emitted nationwide.

- In 2023, Texas reported more than 39 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from 361 petroleum and natural gas facilities (figure excludes refineries).
- Tarrant County is home to the Barnett Shale, the Midlothian cement plants, and other facilities reporting greenhouse gas emissions. Policymakers need the GHG data in order to monitor and set protective regulations for these industries.
- The DFW area has been in non-attainment for federal ozone standards since 1991.
- We cannot fix what we cannot see. Tell the EPA to uphold public transparency and data-driven action by rescinding the rollback of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.

Please **personalize your comments by referring to where you live and why this rule is important to you.** You may want to include where you live in relation to Barnett Shale fracking operations and other polluters on the map above. Please mention any **concerns you have about local air quality and illnesses** like asthma in your family that could be worsened by additional pollution.

You can also use [our sample letter at this link](#) as a template to help draft your letter.

**Please include
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0186**

Click below to start writing. Thank you!

[Write a comment](#)



My Nature Notebook

Poop

Me and little Stupid were just fooling around with some bugs in Creepy's messy yard but he caught us again and started yelling, then he got all excited and told us to come look because we would really really like it. Look!



Bet you don't know what left this. And it was poop so I said it's just some dumb dog of course. But Creepy said no, no, it's a coyote. Bet you don't know why. And Stupid did one of his weird things and said it's full of seeds, there's some hairs, it's right in the middle of your path, and it doesn't smell at all like dog poop. I guess that coyote's just marking his territory and telling other coyotes about his presence and status. And Creepy looked really surprised and said uh, yeah, that's very good. Are you sure she's your sister?

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).

Too Many Post Oaks? John Darling

October 9 was a bad day for Post oaks near the southern edge of UTA. Workers cut a dozen or so along one side of West Street between Park Row and Grand, but they left the trunks. Is this a memorial to the mindless destruction of an almost irreplaceable resource?

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Too Many Post Oaks? continued from page 18

Of course, this was never prime habitat for anything much besides Fox squirrels and Blue jays, but it was Post oaks shading the yards of four or five modest houses. All gone, and why? Sure, property rights, but are they absolute? Thanks to Marian Hiler for coming up with street view photos. *Below*, Before and after the assault.



Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

October 13. Privet Pull.

The never-ending task of privet removal continues in Randol Mill Park. Karen Knight and Carol Marcotte tackled the job again on October 13. The piles of cut privet are getting higher! YEAH!

Thank you, Karen (*right*), a rest well earned. Carol Marcotte photo.

October 23. Volunteer Workday.

We installed a rockway from the curb to the bluebird nest box. Also, we trimmed native shrubs, pulled weeds, and dug up daisies to transplant into the wildscape area of the park.



Left, The new rockway to the bluebird nest box. Below from left, Carol Marcotte, Faith Salfen. Faith Salfen photos.



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marian Hiler

Major planting in the new prairie was the focus of October though regular maintenance carried on as usual. Late October rains didn't come soon enough to perk up a very parched wildscape.

North Prairie Project

Activity in the new prairie was again ramped up this past month. At the October first Saturday workday, John Snowden and his partner Austin Rollins of Natural Texas delivered 43 flats of healthy prairie grasses — half was Sideoats grama and the remaining Indiangrass and Little bluestem. The old good news, bad news trope. Two thousand plus wonderful grasses had to get into the ground. That day we planted seven flats, each containing fifty 4-inch grasses, with additional help from many of this year's Master Naturalist class.

The task proved more difficult than we had anticipated because the red clay soil — even under deep mulch for the past year — was hard to dig. As the volunteers continued to struggle over the next couple of workdays, we consulted UTA professor and landscape architect David Hopman for a better way. He said because red clay absorbs water at a rate of less than 1/4 inch per hour we needed to water the heck out of it, meaning for several hours instead of the single hour we had been watering. So, water the heck we did. That did the trick, because at the latest workday we were able to plant over twice as many as on the previous workday. A great big thank you goes to David for improving our productivity and saving our backs. At this writing, about 30% of the flats have been planted.



The flats of prairie grasses arrived for the October first Saturday. Marian Hiler photo.

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Wildscape Update continued from page 21, continued on page 23



Above, Thankfully, a larger than usual crew came to the first Saturday workday. *Below*, Volunteers used drills and mattocks to dig holes when the clay was still hard. Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 22, continued on page 24



Above, Planting Indiangrass on the lower southern edge of the prairie. Below, Volunteers work on breaking up the clay soil. Marian Hiler photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 23, continued on page 25



Left above, Lynn Chen swings a mean mattock. Left below, Josephine Keeney tenderly places an Indian-grass in the soil. Below, John Snowden sows Purpletop, Standing cypress and Little bluestem seeds. Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 24, continued on page 26



Above left, Lynn Chen digs up Cherokee sedge to relocate to the prairie. From left, Ann Knudsen, Joe Martinez, Lynn Chen, and Christine Brinson plant the Cherokee sedge along the culvert drainage area. Below left, Marylee Thomason deadheads *Salvia coccinea*. Below right, Lisa Gibson and Marylee Thomason trim back *Salvia farinacea*. Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 25, continued on page 27



Above, Our youngest volunteer, Ezra Harris, shows his mother Melanie the proper watering technique. Marian Hiler photo.



Rain, Mosses and Fungi

The thunderstorms that came at the end of October reinvigorated the thirsty mosses and fungi found throughout the wildscape. They appeared to awaken overnight, growing more than twice their height.

Below left, Candleflame Lichen. *Below from top*, Golden Ear fungus. Hoary Rosette Lichen. Lynn Chen photos. Smooth Hook Moss on a fallen tree. Marian Hiler photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 26, continued on page 28



Left above, Big bluestem's colorful inflorescence. Left below, Small white Aster. Below, Fluffy inflorescence of a Silver bluestem. Ann Knudsen photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 27

First Saturday mini-classes

At the **October 4** mini-class, naturalist and author Michael Smith presented "Nature Journaling - Enhance Your Experience". He told us how journaling can help you pay attention to the present moment and notice more. Pausing to think about natural observations creates memories even without referring back to your written notes, but writing or drawing requires you to carefully study your subject like plants, lizards or mushrooms. He provided [two handouts](#) that covered "Nature Journaling for the Skeptic" designed for people hesitant to stop and document their experiences and ideas to introduce older kids to nature journaling. You can find Michael's presentation on the [wildscape's YouTube channel](#).

At the mini-class scheduled for **November 1**, Master Naturalist Karen Knight will give a presentation on "Climate Change and Texas Ecosystems; Actions We Can Take Now." This presentation will give a brief overview of how climate change is affecting various Texas ecosystems with emphasis on north Texas. She will discuss actions we can take to reverse our warming planet. Karen is a member of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), DFW Chapter, and will be the primary CCL Liaison to Representative Roger Williams of US House District 25.

Mini-classes are held at the wildscape pavilion and begin about 11:30 as the workday volunteers put away the day's tools.

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Below, Michael Smith reads an example passage from his personal journal. Ann Knudsen photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 28



Volunteer Opportunities

9 – 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



Left above, A Monarch, one of many, that recently found sustenance in the butterfly garden. Left below, The Queen butterfly, often mistaken for a Monarch, also likes the butterfly garden. Ann Knudsen photos. Below, A Gulf fritillary seems to enjoy the warm wood chips on a cool morning. Marian Hiler photo.



Social Media? Yup.

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



What do you want to talk about today?

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

Spiders in the Park: Review

On October 21, Meghan Cassidy presented a program for the Friends of SCNP via ZOOM. She started with a foundation of basic info about spiders and other arachnids, including taxonomy, and a touch of ecology and natural history. She focused on spiders found in Texas and pointed out the ones that have been found at SCNP. Meghan had many amazing photos to show and lots of tips and trivia about spiders.

Here are some of my take-aways. Bold jumping spiders don't make webs, but instead use their silk to make sleeping sacs. Certain spiders are excellent mothers, carrying the egg sac, and then the tiny spiderlings on their back until the hatchlings are ready to go off on their own. There is a very deceptive looking ant mimic spider — they mimic ants' movements and use their two front legs to imitate antennae, holding them up and waving them. The only way to tell if you were bitten by a spider is to actually see the spider bite you. And Meghan adds lots of photos and comparisons of the two spiders with medically significant bites — Brown recluse and Black widow. And last, please start moving spiders inside your house instead of dumping them outside! You can find these tidbits and much more on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/cCxqm7qyOwo>

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*Above left, Bold jumping spider. Right, an ant mimic spider found in Texas.
Below, a female wolf spider carrying hatchlings.*



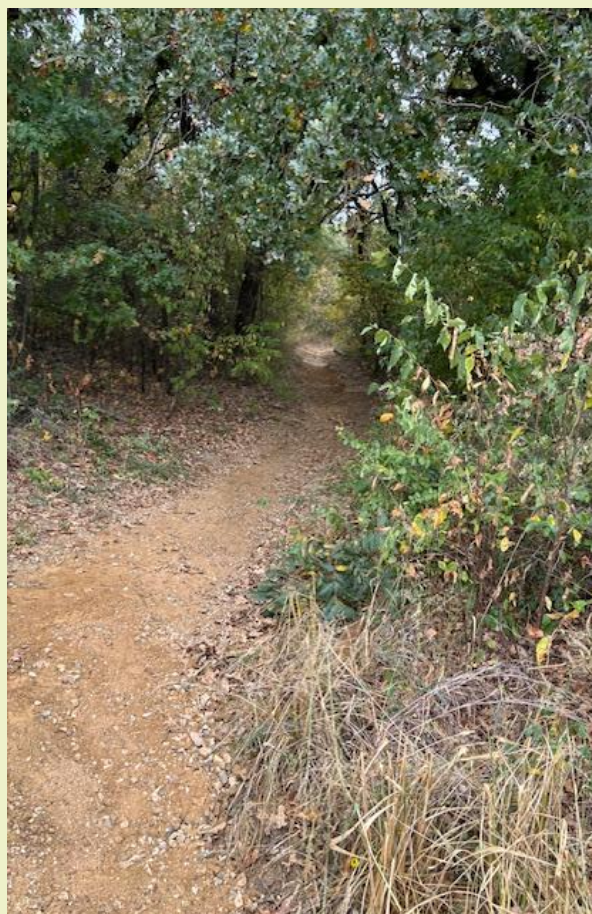
SCNP continued from page 31**Third Saturday Volunteers – Oct. 18** Jim Frisinger

We had a small crew for October's 3rd Saturday but still made progress on repairs and improvements to the lower section of the Blue trail as it descends to the North Prairie. We were able to remove channels, smooth the lower part of the Blue Trail, and regrade with decomposed granite and road base.

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The next 3rd Saturday Volunteer Day is November 15.

Right, Our mascot, a Rough green snake. Below left, volunteers from left Robbie Crawford, Rudy Arnold, and Alyssa Foy. Not shown, Jim Domke and Jan Miller. Jan Miller photos.



SCNP continued from page 32**SCNP iNaturalist Observations — September 2025**

Numbers for September:

153 Observations, 104 species, 12 Observers

Totals for SCNP at the end of September:

24, 657 Observations, 2,138 species



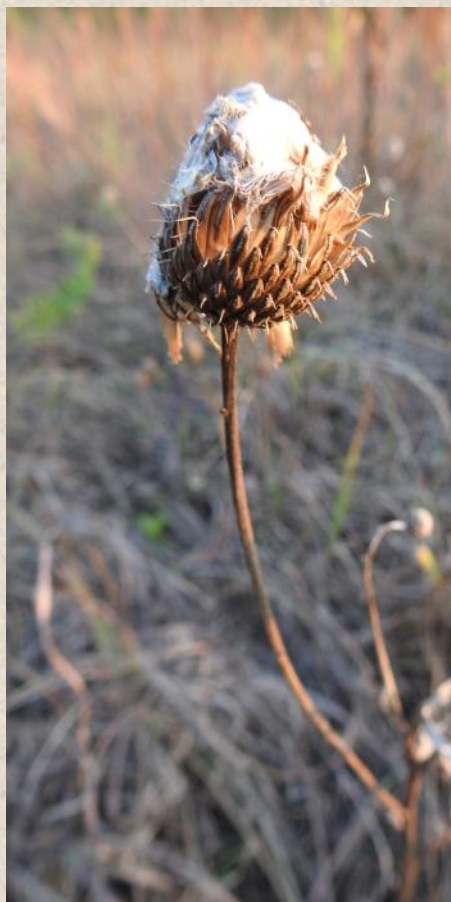
Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) — oddfitz, Checkered Setwing (*Dythemis fugax*) — sam_dragon-moore, Golden-eye Lichen (*Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*) — lynnwchen



Dotted Gayfeather (*Liatris punctata*) — sam_dragon-moore, False Gaura (*Oenothera glaucifolia*) — joshmols, Spanish Gold (*Grindelia ciliata*) — lynnwchen

Blackland Prairie Preserve

Guy Random



*Late October? No!
We missed the big autumn rains.
Prematurely parched,
That's just how we are.
Only stubborn goldenrod
Brightens up the place.*



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Our November Zoom Meeting



See page 6 for more on this meeting.