

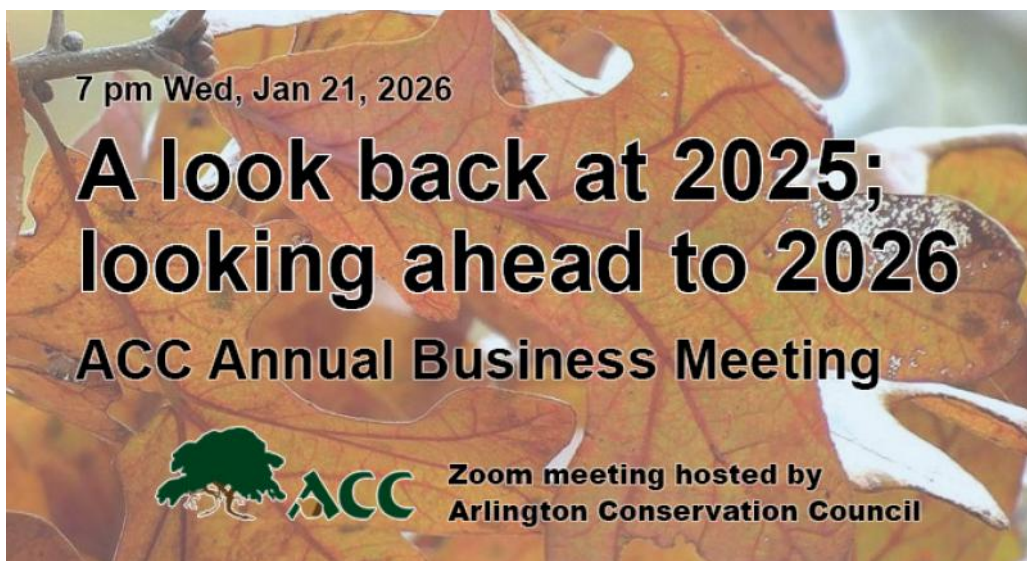
ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POST OAK

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 9
DECEMBER 2025

SHERI CAPEHART NATURE PRESERVE • FEB. 13, 2010 • JAN MILLER PHOTO

January Zoom Meeting



Read more about this program on page 6

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83425343945>

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

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



From the President Dick Schoech

Season's Greetings to all Arlington Conservation Council supporters. Hope you spread the true meaning of Christmas, which is peace on Earth, good will toward men. Try to weed out the commercialism that bombards our lives over the holidays and include Mother Nature in your celebrations.



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,
John Dycus, Jim Frisinger,
Marian Hiler, Ann Knudsen,
Carol Marcotte, Jan Miller,
Guy Random, Faith Salfen,
Dick Schoech, Ivan Querido

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

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



Gulf fritillaries in mid-December.

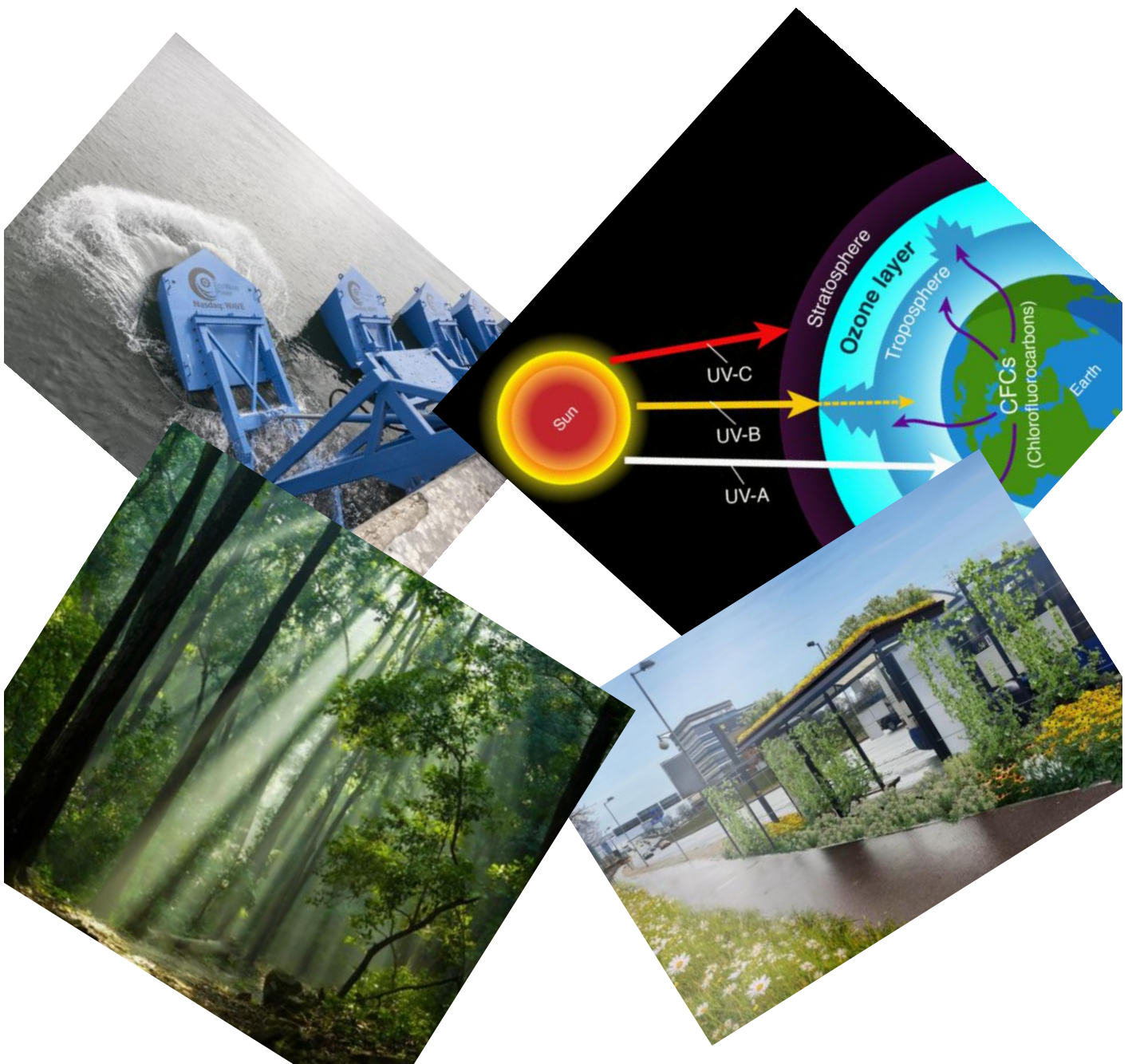
Sign up for weekly
Arlington news.

[Subscribe to the Arlington Report](#)



Positivity **John Dycus and John Darling**

John Dycus wants this positive page. He can't help it, that's just the way he is. Me, I can wallow in the negative all day, then come up for more. But I had to give in because, to my surprise, he has become my first mentor. For months now, John has the last look at the newsletter before you see it. After our tireless natural area leaders have contributed their reports and two amazing proofreaders have pointed out dozens of my errors, he finds more and presents them to me with kindness and encouragement. So, if you've been feeling good about clean copy and our internal margins, you can thank John Dycus. (That mess down below? Last month's Positivity photos. I had to put them someplace.) – *John Darling*



Our January Zoom Meeting

A look back at 2025, looking ahead to 2026

ACC Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7 pm

Join ACC to review the 2025 environmental year and elect officers. And of course it's time to express your biggest local environmental concerns, share your interests, and be sure ACC knows what you think it should be doing in 2026. In addition, members of the award-winning FAUNA will present their accomplishments and plans.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83425343945>

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

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



Blackland Prairie Preserve, April, 2025

In Case You Missed It

For this special, mini-issue of *The Post Oak*, all of us at the Arlington Conservation Council have many reasons to celebrate. For starters, we

welcome Gary Packan back to Arlington as its new director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (For more on Gary, click [here](#).);

bid a fond farewell to James Orloski, whose open-door policy and no-nonsense approach to situations was much appreciated; and wish

virtual hugs to Michael Debrecht, Venera Flores-Stafford, Devin Steward, Wendy Pappas, Montana Williams, and the many other stalwarts who kept the boat afloat during the transition. Last but not least, we tip our hats to City Manager Trey Yelverton and staff for making us feel part of the decision. — *Grace Darling*



From last month's In Case You Missed It: 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.

Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



Hey, don't litter.

But if you drink Coke, especially this Mexican Coke, finish it. Dang.

And hey, Arlington recycles glass. Got it straight from Tyler Hurd, who works on city recycling.

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

Marvellous Mushroom



Here's a Southern Jack o' Lantern mushroom Dick Schoech found recently. Of course, it's a beauty, but there's lot more to this creature. As luck would have it, you can treat yourself to Michael Smith's fine nature writing and enjoy learning about this mushroom [here](#).



Redbud hanging on.

Hurry Up and Head South



Gulf fritillary caterpillars feeding on passionflower vine around December 15. Looks like they're getting close to metamorphosis, which takes a while. Then adults live only 14 - 27 days. So how does this life cycle work? At least some migrate, and maybe others manage winter in the leaf litter. But how, if adults live less than a month?

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



Question Corner Professor J. Lewis Corner

Q: So what the heck happened to your cockamamie newsletter this time? Even scattered in with the goofy stuff there were bits of actual information in an average month. Now what?

A: Don't you get it? This is the special holiday mini-newsletter where leaders representing this and that express gratitude for all the good things that happened and the people behind them over the past year. Or maybe just the pleasures of our natural world — like, look over there, quick! It's a raccoon in the snow at Sheri Capehart! Oh, too bad, you missed it. Anyway, shut up, get out there, and be festive. Next!



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/arlintontx



Green Arlington Foundation
Supporting local sustainability

P.O. Box 264
Arlington TX 76004-0264
GreenArlington.org
214-709-8791

Paul Krudsen's
ArlingtonNOW.com
Event Photography

Portfolio_Studio@yahoo.com
817.265.4441

Herb 'n Health
Natural Foods Market & Herb Shoppe

3759 E. Lancaster St. Ft. Worth Tx. 76105
Karen Foley 817-555-1152



Hairy hexagonia, possibly.

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John DYCUS

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

Law Office of
SHANE GOETZ

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

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

LIVEABLE ARLINGTON

Working Toward a Healthy Community
On a
Liveable Planet

Connect with us at
<https://www.liveablearlington.org>
info@liveablearlington.org

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

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

**Relax, this month we
just want to tell all our
members and friends
how grateful we are for
them.**



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).

Randol Mill Park

Randol Mill Park is a small corner in our big world of conserving nature, environmental stewardship, and sustainable practices.

Volunteers, you are the hands who plant the trees and flowers, tend to gardens, spread wildflower seed, perform trail maintenance, face erosion control, create photography, record data, and much more. You make our public space, Randol Mill Park, clean and welcoming.

Arlington Parks, Recreation, and Culture, we are ALL grateful for your desire to find solutions, encourage sustainable land use, and your development practices. Your willingness to work with volunteers keeps Arlington beautiful.

Thank you! – *Carol Marcotte*

SAVETARRANTWATER.COM

DIY SEED BALLS

Arlington Downtown Library

January 17 | 2 pm



Seed balls are an easy, fun way to kickstart your garden. Create your own native wildflower seed balls in class to bring color and pollinators to any landscape!

Join our free interactive class with Arlington Public Library to learn more!

Sign up now: <https://stw.fyi/diysba>

Molly Hollar Wildscape

This year the wildscape volunteers have been particularly hard working, establishing a new prairie, plugging along with the old greenhouse, and still having a successful plant sale.

I could not possibly have asked for a more dedicated team. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all your efforts in making the wildscape a continued success and sanctuary for all who visit.

And many thanks to Arlington Parks, Recreation, and Culture for helping us in all our endeavors, for being patient with our anxiousness in getting the new greenhouse, and for Juan Gonzales, Veterans Park caretaker, for always looking out for us with a friendly smile.

Happy Holidays — *Ann Knudsen*



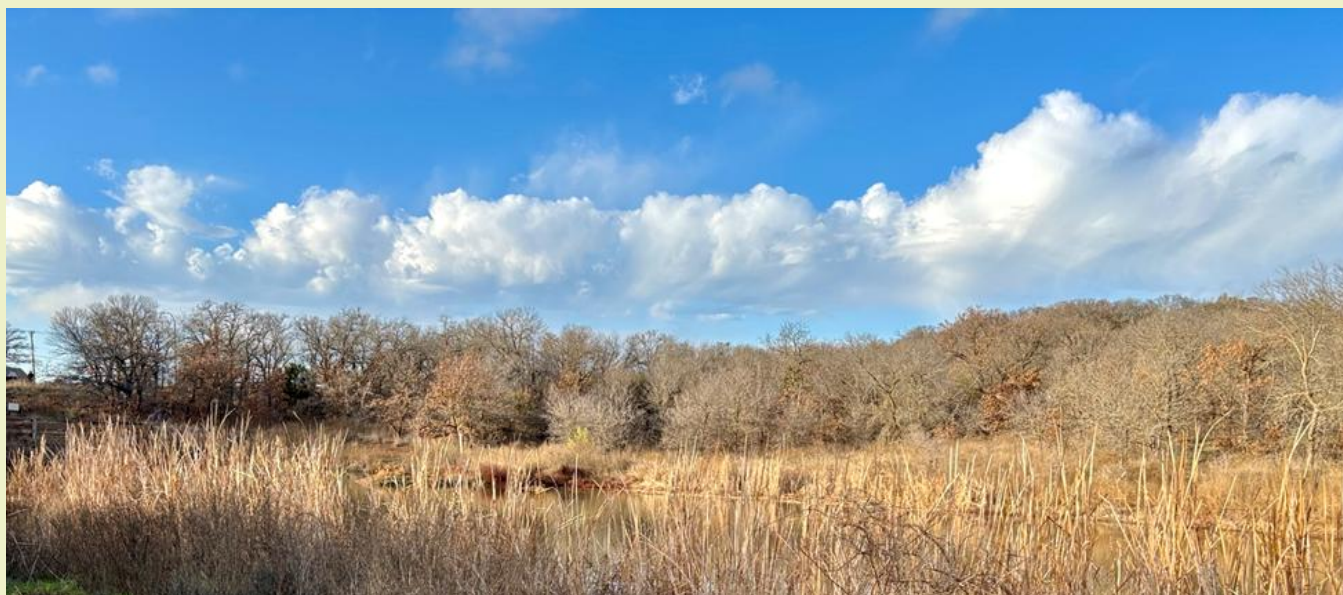
Social Media? Yup.

**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



Chances are pretty good that 2026 at Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve will roll in looking about the same as it did in 2025. But that would be deceiving. So much happened there this year: new species were discovered, new visitors came, and new appreciations of so many kinds were created. More than 3000 iNaturalist observations so far indicate that people find lots of interesting subjects here. Attendance at our events was great this year, showing that people are interested in learning about the plants and animals that depend on native habitats like this. Maybe, over time, visitors realize that SCNP is especially diverse and represents habitat that they've never seen before...and they may want to study it or protect it. We can hope.

Each year comes to a close with a season of gratitude and hope. We're grateful for this place and all that it still sustains. We're also grateful for all who share that appreciation and who care for it: APRD staff and the volunteers who repair its trails, extract invasive plants, restore its prairies and woodlands, pick up litter and those who study its species, their relationships and more. Other SCNP supporters who share their knowledge and enthusiasm at events throughout the year or through messages in our newsletter and online. Still more supporters who use it as a teaching laboratory for Master Naturalists, Scouts, and home school groups. We're grateful for camaraderie that builds over time, working as friends on common goals and for those who've donated funds so that maintenance, restoration and outreach can continue. We'll hope that SCNP can continue to support its inhabitants and to share its unique character far into the future. — *Jan Miller*

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve



From the preserve: *Left above*, Farkleberry in bloom. *Right*, Bat night. *Below*, A beautiful evening to look for Yucca moths.



ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Membership Information

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

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216. Or pay via PayPal or credit card [HERE](#). Contributions and dues are tax-deductible. ACC is a nonprofit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization. If you cannot pay, let any board member know. The newsletter is available via email and the ACC website.

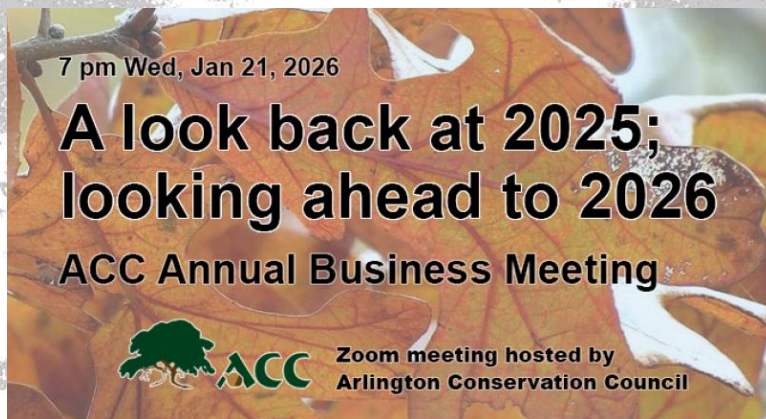
President Dick Schoech
Vice President vacant
Treasurer Marian Hiler

Secretary Jamie Brunner
Webmaster Frank Keeney
Editor John Darling

Board Members
 Grace Darling
 John Dycus
 David Hopman
 Elin Jacks
 Hester Schwarzer

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

Our January Zoom Meeting



See page 6 for more on this meeting.