

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

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BLACKLAND PRAIRIE PRESERVE • MARCH 22, 2026 • GUY RANDOM PHOTO

March Zoom Meeting

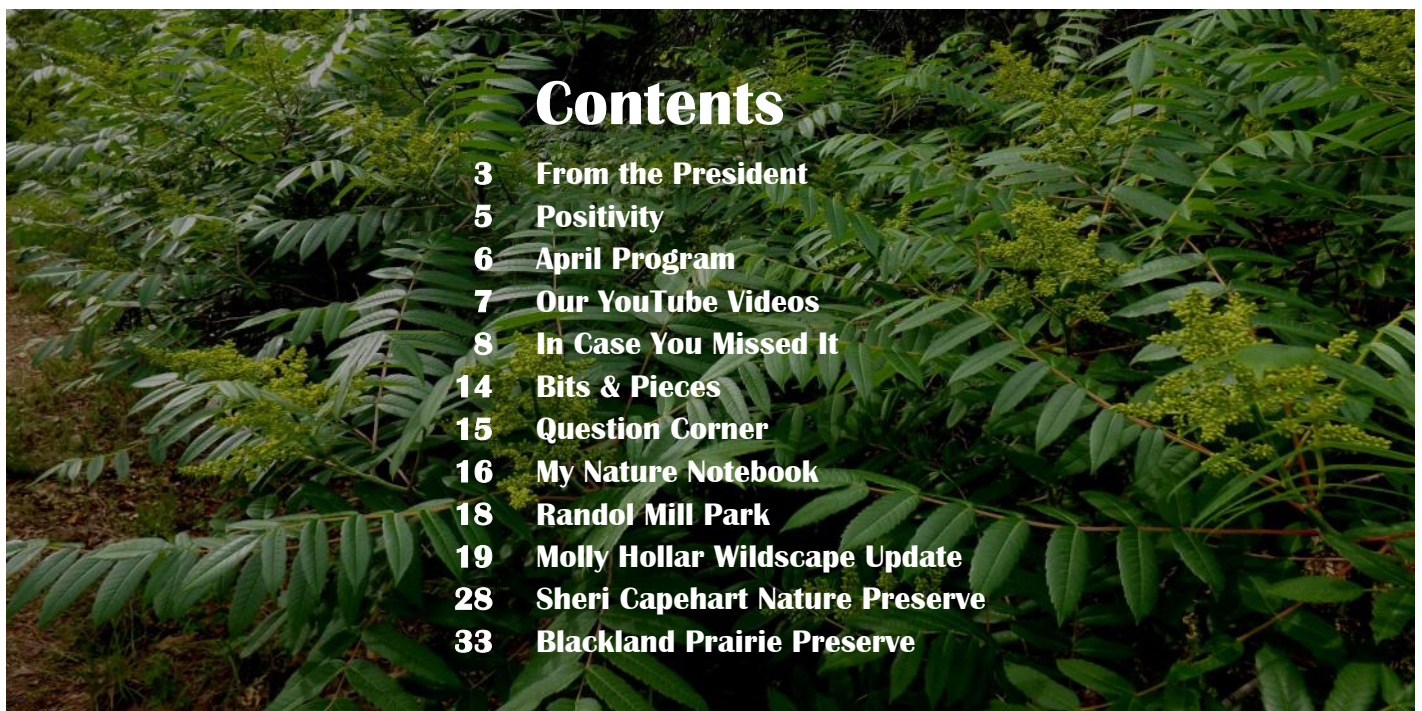


Did you miss this great talk?

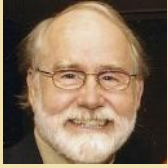
Go to

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qxPPruZ_oU&t=3s

to enjoy it.



From the President Dick Schoech



The Health of Nature in the U.S., 2026

Experts were synthesizing existing research on the health of nature when President Trump canceled the report. The experts continued on their own and released [an 868-page draft](#) for late fall public comment and publication. Many findings are grim:

- Freshwater ecosystems across the country are in crisis, overdrawn, polluted, fragmented, and invaded.
- Marine and terrestrial ecosystems are degraded, with reduced biodiversity.
- An estimated 34 percent of plant species and 40 percent of animal species are at risk of extinction.

Human pressures on nature are eroding the necessities it gives us, such as clean water, food, health, livelihoods, and protection from storms and fire.

While disturbing, the report found that conservation, restoration and renewed connections between people and nature still can improve ecosystem health and strengthen community resilience.

Chapters on bright spots in nature, human health, the economy, and national security highlight solutions and nature's ability to recover, given the chance. The report provides a scientific consensus by which policymakers and the public can make informed decisions.

Even as much environmental work is needed to address climate change, aggressive federal workforce cuts removed 260,000 employees from government payrolls. Particularly hard hit are agencies overseeing climate science and adaptation.

Arlington's third and final funding of the privet-eating goats — from the Arbor Day Foundation through a \$75M Biden-era Inflation Reduction Act grant to the US Forest Service — was cancelled in January 2025, a victim of the current administration's anti-DEI push and DOGE's termination of tree-planting grants to low-income communities.^{1,2}

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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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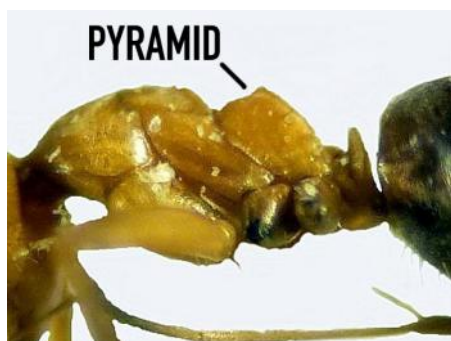
From the President continued from page 3

The Environmental Protection Agency recently eliminated the 2009 Endangerment Finding, the legal backbone of clean air and climate protections, and this severely limits the government's ability to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and safeguard the air we breathe. Without these protections, the nation's hands are tied in cutting climate pollution. The Trump administration is abandoning science and putting Big Oil and Gas profits over the health of our children and families.

Considering the chaotic federal budget slashings and micromanagement of local environmental initiatives, the local level seems the most productive for environmental and energy action. Environmentalists cannot wait for the current political climate to address climate and nature problems. Citizens must band together to plan and carry out environmental actions that they know are needed.

References

1. <https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/arlington/article314750131.html>
2. <https://www.newsweek.com/doge-terminates-tree-planting-grant-low-income-communities-2038814>



Tiny note for really tiny creatures: Thinking about Pyramid ants in the yard. Known by little cone nests with a central hole. Pyramid on their backs. Eat lots of invertebrates, often fire ants! See more [here](#).



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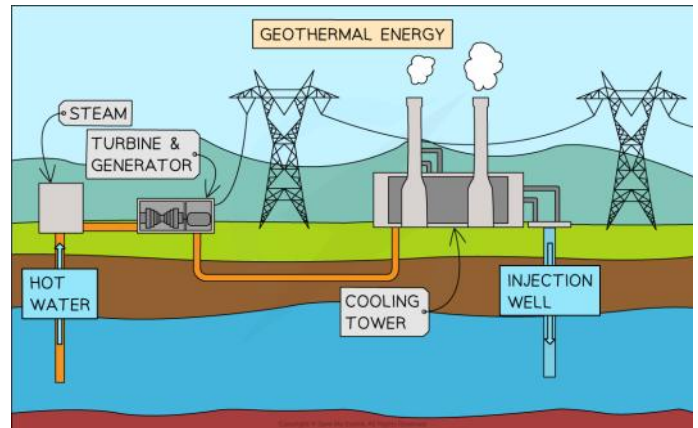


Positivity John Dycus and John Darling

Here is more positive environmental news, thanks again to John Dycus. Like me, he sees way too many negative developments, but he finds answers, as you see on this page. 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.



This one sounds unbelievably simple. Can it be so straightforward? Hunting plus habitat loss pushed many large European mammals close to extinction. But conservation, reintroductions, and habitat improvement have dramatically reversed the situation. Prime example: the [European bison](#).



Here's the headline: Earth's heat to power 10,000 homes in renewable energy first for UK. Just drill three miles, pump down water that picks up heat, and make some electricity. Not entirely easy, but [have a look here](#) — and don't forget the lithium.



Are you tired of picking up floating litter? These EU people are using drones and robots to [bring up submerged litter](#) from the ocean floor. The current project is SeaClear2.0, and it aims to reduce undersea litter by about half by 2030 using autonomous drones, cranes and even barges that act as floating garbage trucks. More power to them.



From The Guardian: Villagers on Príncipe, the “African Galapagos,” to be [paid for protecting the ecosystem](#). At last, a billionaire we can root for is funding the Faya project, where villagers who agree to follow an environmental code will receive a hefty dividend. This looks especially important in a place with great biodiversity whose human inhabitants could easily have a destructive effect.

April Zoom Meeting

Coyote Coexistence: Living in Harmony with America's Song Dog

**Karin and Roberto Saucedo
Song Dog Watch Cofounders**

**Watch any time at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qxPPruZ_oU&t=3s**

It's tough being a coyote. They are highly resilient social animals adaptable to diverse environments, but the threats they face are real. As keystone carnivores, they play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and biodiversity. Learning to live alongside these ecologically valuable wild neighbors is key to maintaining multi-species communities.

Karin and Roberto Saucedo, cofounders of the nonprofit advocacy organization Song Dog Watch, will explore the threats coyotes experience from humans and examine the seasonal behaviors that often lead to increased sightings. Proactive decisions can minimize negative encounters. They will dispel the most common coyote myths and share tips on how to keep people and companion animals safe.

Karin, a Dallas-based SMU advertising/photography graduate, is a published wildlife conservation photographer with a focus on wild canids and felids. She has over a decade of experience in animal rescue, rehabilitation, and outreach and is the Texas state coordinator at Project Coyote and a Texas Master Naturalist. She also is a partner photographer for Panthera.

Roberto, a lifelong Texan born and raised in El Paso, has a creative marketing background and applies his storytelling skills to wildlife and conservation photography. For the past eight years he has documented coyote behavior across North Texas through observation, photography, and camera traps. Like Karin, Roberto serves on the Texas Native Cats advisory committee. He volunteers at In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue, where Karin is a senior volunteer.

Song Dog Watch educates local communities on coyote conduct and how to coexist with wildlife. Karin and Roberto collaborate with wildlife rescues and municipalities across North Texas on issues involving coyotes, foxes, and bobcats.

Our YouTube Videos Marian Hiler

Take a look at any of our programs since October 2023 on [ACC's YouTube channel](#). Here they are.



[Coyote Coexistence: Living in Harmony with America's Song Dog](#)

Karin and Roberto Saucedo



[Beyond Parks – Update on the redesigned department](#)

Gary Packan, Mar 2026



[Horned Lizards and Horny Toads](#)

Michael Smith
Feb 2026



[2025 Environmental Progress; Planning for 2026](#)

Jan 2026



[The Wonderful World of Bats](#)

Hester Schwarzer and Ellen Ravkind
Nov 2025



[Spiders in the Garden](#)

Meghan Cassidy
Oct 2025



[Soils for Wildlife](#)

Sam Kieschnick
Sep 2025



[Where Are Reptiles and Amphibians Going ... and Who Is Helping?](#)

Michael Smith, Aug 2025



[EV Myths and FUDs \(Fears, Uncertainties, Doubts\)](#)

Eric Pratt, Jun 2025



[Why we should care: Covering the environment at FW Report](#)

Nicole Lopez, John Geer, May 2025



[Tarantulas: They're awesome. Ooh, tell us more](#)

Erika Swyryn, Apr 2025



[Symbiosis in Your Backyard: Insects, Trees and the Link Between Them](#)

Kimberlee Peterson, Mar 2025



[Prairie Seekers Training: Learning in Nature's Classroom](#)

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[2024 Environmental Progress; Planning for 2025](#)

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[Perspective on the 88th Texas Legislative Session](#)

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[Prairie Restoration in the Built Environment](#)

Clint Hail, Mar 2024



[Trees as Habitat for Wildlife](#)

Hester Schwarzer
Feb 2024



[ACC 2024 Annual Meeting FAUNA Parks Presentations](#)

Jan 2024



[Texas Turtles](#)

Carl J. Franklin and Viviana Ricardez
Nov 2023



[Weathering the Climate Change Storm](#)

Jeff Ray
Oct 2023

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



The wobble is a metabolic crash. If you see an opossum staggering across your patio in broad daylight this February, do not reach for the shovel. He is not groggy. He is not acting crazy. He is in the final stages of a physiological shutdown.

The Myth: In the United States, we are culturally conditioned to view any nocturnal animal active during the day — especially one moving unsteadily — as rabid.

The Reality: For the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), this diagnosis is statistically improbable. Opossums have a naturally low body temperature (roughly 94°F-97°F) which makes it difficult for the rabies virus to survive and replicate in their systems. If an opossum is wobbling in February, the culprit is almost certainly metabolic collapse, not a virus.

The Scientific Reality: Hypoglycemic shock and ataxia. The staggering gait you are witnessing is clinically known as ataxia (loss of motor control). In late winter, this is a critical alarm bell indicating that the animal's blood glucose and core temperature have dropped below the threshold required to coordinate its own muscles.

Opossums are evolutionary migrants from the tropics (South America). They lack a thick underfur and do not hibernate. They are biologically ill-equipped for American winters.

The brain is a glucose-dependent organ. When an opossum spends days sheltering from a February freeze without eating, it burns through its fat reserves. When blood sugar plummets (hypoglycemia), the cerebellum — the part of the brain controlling balance — fails to function. The stumble isn't aggression; it is the visible symptom of a brain starved of fuel.

Why This Matters Ecologically: The opossum is the "sanitation engineer" of the forest. They consume thousands of ticks per season (reducing Lyme disease risk), eat cockroaches, and clean up carrion. Losing a breeding-age individual to preventable starvation right before spring creates a gap in this crucial cleanup crew. A "wobbly" opossum is not dead yet; it is salvageable. This is a medical emergency. Time is the enemy.

Do not watch to see if he "walks it off" — s/he won't. Opossums are generally non-aggressive when weak. Use thick gardening gloves or a heavy towel to gently scoop it into a high-sided box or cat carrier. You must provide external heat. Fill a hot water bottle (wrap it in a towel so it doesn't burn the skin) or use a heating pad on low setting under half the box. This arrests the hypothermia. Do not force-feed: A cold animal cannot digest; food will rot in the stomach or cause aspiration. You must warm them up before they can metabolize calories. Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator* immediately — they can administer subcutaneous fluids and dextrose (sugar) injections to reverse the crash. [NWRAwildlife.org; *911wildlife]

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In Case continued from page 8



Negotiators from the seven states along the Colorado River blew past [yet another federal deadline](#) over the weekend without reaching a compromise on how to share its water — even as this winter’s [dismal snowpack](#) could spell immediate disaster for the river system.

Yearslong discussions about how to split the river’s shrinking water supply, which is relied upon by 40 million people, remained deadlocked as the Saturday deadline for a final deal came and went. It was a deadline set by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The seven basin states are split into two factions that have not agreed on how to divvy up cuts to water supplies in dry years. The Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada lie downstream of Lakes Powell and Mead and rely on releases from those reservoirs for water. The Upper Basin states — Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico — are upstream of the reservoirs and primarily depend on mountain snowpack for their water supplies.

Leaders from each basin pointed fingers at the other as the deadline passed.

Lower Basin negotiators have repeatedly said that Upper Basin states must “share the pain” and take mandatory cuts in dry years, which have become increasingly common in recent decades. But the Upper Basin states say their water users already take cuts every year because their supplies depend on the amount of water available and are not propped up by supplies in Lakes Powell and Mead.

As political leaders unleashed a series of pointed statements Friday, the Bureau of Reclamation [released new projections](#) that show one of the river system’s major reservoirs could be in peril as soon as this summer. The bureau’s new projections show that, if drought conditions remain dire, Lake Powell could fall so low by the end of July that water would no longer flow through Glen Canyon Dam’s hydropower system — [a level called “dead pool.”](#) Even if snow conditions improve, the reservoir could still reach dead pool in November — a scenario the bureau dubbed its most probable outcome. Snowpack across the mountains that feed the Colorado River remained dismal in February and March. In its latest weekly report, the Upper Colorado Snowpack Database shows snowpack in the Southern Rockies region — which includes Colorado’s major river basins — is currently at 38% of average for the data spanning the last 26 years. [denverpost.com, 2/17/26; water-data.com; see megadrought below]

Authorities cleaned up 6,800 barrels of crude oil from a broken pipeline just north of Lake Arlington in May last year, according to a spokesperson for the Environmental Protection Agency. That’s 4,200 more barrels than the estimate the company responsible previously reported to the agency. Energy Transfer, the company that owns the pipeline that leaked, originally reported to the EPA that 2,600 barrels had been cleaned up from the site.

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The EPA's statement was in response to an inquiry about a report from the Texas Railroad Commission stating the spill was 6,600 barrels, which was obtained by a Star-Telegram reader through an open records request. The RRC verified the report, which was signed by an environmental specialist with Energy Transfer on May 27. RRC spokesperson Bryce Dubee said the oil was "all recovered from the sewer line." One barrel of oil holds 42 gallons, so the damaged pipeline released over 285,000 gallons, some of which entered the Fort Worth sewer system and contaminated the Village Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The report states that no crude oil was unrecovered and that the spill did not affect inland or coastal water. "Oil entered a sewer line that transported the oil to the Village Creek Waste Water Treatment plant," the report states. "The oil was collected using skimmers and vac trucks at the treatment plant." The cause of the spill is attributed to a "pipeline failure" in the report. City officials diverted the flow to the Village Creek Water Reclamation Area for emergency containment, using the nearby Village Creek Drying Beds to clean up affected water and materials. The city has since sealed off the area, citing safety and legal concerns. To date this birding paradise remains closed indefinitely. [star-telegram.com, 8/8 and 12/30/25]

On Wednesday **prominent medical and environmental groups** [challenged the Trump](#)



[administration's decision](#) to [scrap a 2009 finding](#) that climate change threatens human health. The suit was filed on February 18 by the American Public Health Association (APHA), the American Lung Association, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and several other medical and environmental advocacy groups.

The new lawsuit could once more elevate the fight over whether climate change harms health to the Supreme Court. In 2007 the Court decided in the case [Massachusetts v. EPA](#) that greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, qualified as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. This formed the basis of the endangerment finding, which held that six greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide from combustion engines, did "threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations." [Rescinding the endangerment finding](#) removes mileage requirements from automakers and could undermine future regulation of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. [Scientific American, 2/18/26]

The EU promotes a circular economy. Sometimes progress begins not with invention, but with a simple

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boundary that says waste is no longer acceptable in the future we are trying to build. A quiet rule change in Europe could transform how the entire fashion industry treats waste, value, and responsibility. From July 2026, the European Union will prohibit the destruction of unsold clothes and shoes, pushing major fashion brands to rethink overproduction and disposal practices. Instead of discarding perfectly usable items, companies will need to explore recycling, reuse, donation, and smarter production planning—marking a decisive shift toward sustainability in one of the world’s most resource-intensive industries.

On February 18, President Trump signed an executive order mobilizing the Defense Production Act to protect domestic production of elemental phosphorus and glyphosate-based herbicides as “essential to military readiness and America’s agricultural strength,” respectively. He framed it as a matter of “national security” and food supply, invoking wartime powers to guarantee the flow of Roundup’s key ingredient into America’s fields. The order doesn’t just boost production of the chemical the World Health Organization has said is “probably carcinogenic to humans,” linking it to non-



Hodgkins lymphoma; it also signals broad federal backing for the manufacturers, potentially insulating them from future accountability. Bayer — which bought Monsanto in 2018 — has agreed to pay billions to settle tens of thousands of cancer claims tied to Roundup while continuing to deny the risks. Now the same chemical at the center of those lawsuits is being elevated to a defense priority. Ironically, US Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a key figure in the MAHA movement, has [long opposed](#) glyphosate-based pesticides. In 2018, as an attorney, Kennedy helped win a lawsuit [alleging](#) that maker Monsanto knew that Roundup caused cancer. He [reiterated](#) last month on Katie Miller’s podcast that “I believe glyphosate causes cancer.” Nevertheless, Kennedy now sings a different tune: “We must safeguard America’s national security first, . . . By expanding domestic production, we close that gap and protect American families.”

From texaslivingwaters.org, this summary report: The proposed massive Marvin Nichols dam and reservoir is a prime example of the unnecessary reliance on new reservoirs and pipelines instead of water conservation. This project would result in one of the largest reservoirs in Texas, flooding over 72,000 acres of land adjacent to the Sulphur River in

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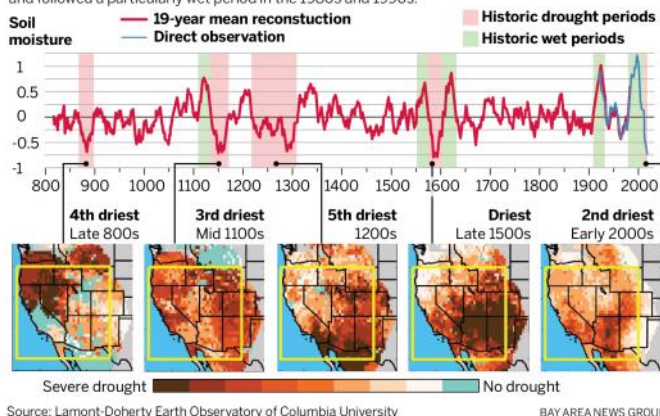
rural Northeast Texas. The majority of the project's water would be piped roughly 170 miles uphill to cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Almost half of the area to be flooded — 30,000 acres — is an increasingly rare type of habitat known as bottomland hardwood forests found only along rivers and streams. Over the past 200 years, more than three-quarters of East Texas' bottomland forests have been destroyed. These wooded wetlands, nurtured by the regular ebb and flow of a free-flowing river, are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the state. Consequently, the construction of Marvin Nichols would have statewide implications for wildlife habitat, [including black bear](#). The construction of Marvin Nichols dam and reservoir would also eliminate many local jobs in farming, ranching, logging, and livestock because a significant amount of working land would be flooded by the reservoir. In addition, the reservoir would flood several family cemeteries and historic Native American sites.

Because of the economic and environmental impacts, there is [strong opposition](#) to the project in the area. In fact, the Regional Water Plan for Northeast Texas (Region D), which covers the area where the proposed reservoir would be built, recommends *against* building the dam. In light of the [local opposition](#) and clear environmental impacts the project would have, it is important to note that the Dallas-Ft. Worth area (aka North Texas Regional Water Planning area or Region C) can meet its water

needs without building this dam. Many of the cities and water supply entities advocating for this project have some of the highest levels of municipal water use in Texas. Additional conservation over and above the modest levels recommended in the Region C water plan could save much or all of the water that would be provided by the Marvin Nichols dam and reservoir. [Texaslivingwaters.org]

IS CALIFORNIA IN A HISTORIC MEGADROUGHT?

The years 2000-2018 were the second-driest 19-year period over the past 1,200 years and followed a particularly wet period in the 1980s and 1990s.



Research Spotlight: Southwestern North America Climate-Driven Megadrought. Four years ago, [a UCLA-led study](#) found that the 22-year-long southwest North American megadrought is the region's driest in at least 1,200 years. Researchers discovered that megadroughts occurred repeatedly in the region from 800 to 1600, but following a hiatus of over 400 years, this turn-of-the-21st-century drought will very likely persist through 2022 and possibly longer, matching the duration of past megadroughts.

The study suggests that dramatic shifts in dryness and water availability happened in the Southwest prior to the effects of human-caused climate change. Existing climate models have shown that the current drought would have been dry even

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without climate change, but not to the same extent. Human-caused climate change is responsible for about 42% of the soil moisture deficit since 2000, the paper found. One of the primary reasons climate change is causing more severe droughts is that warmer temperatures are increasing evaporation, which dries out soil and vegetation. From 2000 to 2021, temperatures in the region were 0.91 degrees Celsius (about 1.64 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than the average from 1950 to 1999.

A study published in 2020 in the journal *Science* says a megadrought as bad or worse than anything even from known prehistory is very likely in progress, and the warming climate is playing a key role. This study considered data only up to 2018, missing the exceptional dry years of 2020 and 2021. The 2020 study found that the 19-year period from 2000 to 2018 was probably the second driest in at least 1,200 years, but was still a few years shorter than the "megadroughts" of the past. The 2020 study covers an area stretching across nine U.S. states from Oregon and Montana down through California and New Mexico, and part of northern Mexico.

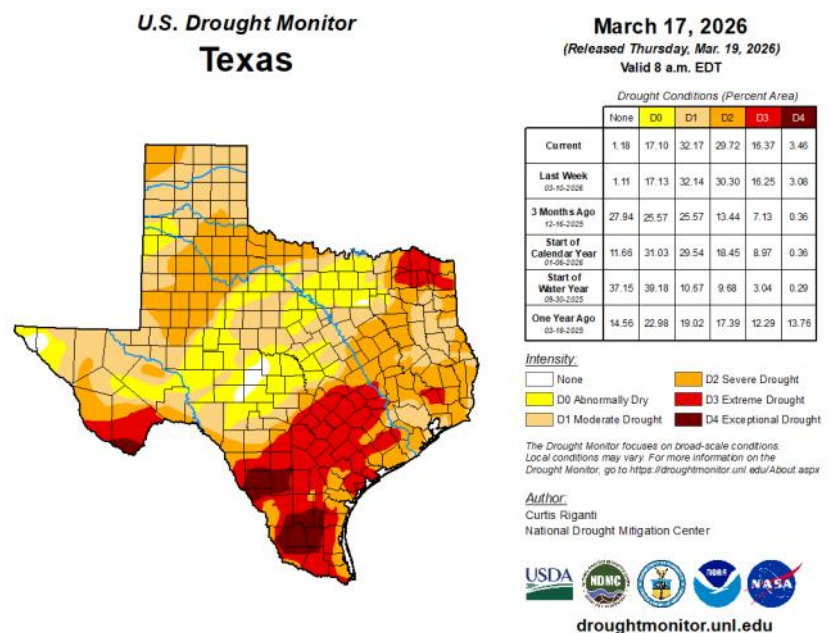
The National Integrated Drought Information System (Drought.gov) hosted two webinars in 2020 focusing on this megadrought:

- explored the severe [Impact of Anthropogenic Warming on an Emerging North American Megadrought](#) and persistent 21st-century drought in southwestern North America, compared it to medieval megadroughts, and discussed the role of anthropogenic climate change.
- [Coping With Megadrought in the Colorado River](#)

[Basin](#) discussed how water managers are working on ways to adapt to a long-term dry pattern on the Colorado River that looks increasingly like one of the region's millennial megadroughts.

A third NIDS-hosted webinar focused on [a potential megadrought in Texas](#). A study published in [Earth's Future](#) found that climate models are robust in projecting drying of summer season soil moisture and decreasing reservoir supplies for both the eastern and western portions of Texas during the 21st century. We may expect drier conditions during the latter half of the 21st century than even the most arid centuries of the last 1,000 years that included megadrought. (The study was conducted by members of the Texas Water Research Network, a water research hub at the University of Texas Environmental Science Institute, and led by the Office of the Texas State Climatologist.)

For an up-to-the-moment look at the Texas drought map and burn bans by county, go to <https://climatexas.tamu.edu/drought/maps/index.html>.



Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



What's this?
Last remnants
of a struggling old
parking lot pecan.

Hey, it was here first!

But that, as they say,
don't cut no ice.

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

My Cup of #5 Tea



You can't tell from the
city's recycling web pages
if they really, really
recycle #5 plastics and
the guy who knows gets
tired of answering your
questions and you ask
your city council member
and the next day she says
YES. And away we go.



Mexican buckeye on March 21.

Nature Photography



Is iNaturalist actually too
smart? Here's a
substandard shot of a
Yellow-collared scape
moth. Just to be annoying,
I send it off to iNat.
Moments later, no muss
no fuss, it comes back with
the right name. Of course
it's an easy one, but still.

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



Question Corner Professor J. Lewis Corner

Q: I was cleaning up my garden and found this funny-looking moth with a huge nose. Now I know your answers are not always sincere, but I'm sure you can behave long enough to tell me this: What is it? And by the way, what good is it? I mean, such a foolish little thing just hiding there in the dead leaves.

A: At the very real risk of not behaving, the obvious answer is, "What good are you?" Moths have been here way over 200 MILLION years (not screwing up the planet). Just hold your nose and look at what we have done in the last few hundred years. Anyway, your Dark-spotted palthis moth has big sensory palps near the mouth that, among other things, sense CO₂. That helps with feeding and oviposition. Next!



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My Nature Notebook

Slime Time Again!

Yeah, it's dog vomit slime mold again. We saw it last year and now it's back in the Creepy Old Guy's yard. This one is SO CUTE but the COG started up with boring stuff about its decomposing and recycling. Then Little Stupid had one of his



spells again and said of course you're missing the main points of this multinucleate mass of undifferentiated cells. You have ignored its ability to tolerate amazingly high levels of zinc, and most remarkably, the ability of slime molds to construct highly efficient feeding networks without anything like a brain. Just consider the [Tokyo experiments](#). Can we go home now? I'm bored.

Any Time Is Dues Time

**Pay ACC dues?
Really?**

**No, not you.
Those big hairless
things that care
about us.**



**Join today.
Check out the back page; it's so easy to pay.
And cheap.**

Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

**You need this park.
And this park needs you.
Here are your next chances to help out:**

Randol Mill Park Volunteer Work Day - Regular Volunteer Day is 4th Thursday each month. The next one is Thursday, March 26, 9am - noon.

Meet at the Pond Triangle Garden. Bring your tools, gloves, hat, water, and sunscreen.

Randol Mill Park - Annual Park Clean Up First Saturday April 4.
9 am - noon. Grabbers and trash bags provided. Wear appropriate clothing, hat, closed-toe shoes.

Randol Mill Park - Big Event - Saturday, April 18 9am - noon. Trail Mulching. Bring water, sunscreen, hat, wear closed toe shoes, dress according to the weather. Parks Department will supply mulch, wheelbarrows, and tools.

For more information, contact Carol Marcotte cell 817- 793-3917.



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marian Hiler

It can be a worn cliché that spring is a time of rebirth, but tell that to the many recent park visitors and volunteers feeling energized after a long period of cold temps and brown vegetation. It always amazes me how seemingly overnight, color comes back to the wildscape. There are plenty of purples, pinks, yellows and whites to go around. Of course, that also includes the green of annoying invasives that volunteers have resolutely taken on during recent workdays. After all, it's a challenge to stay ahead of the quick-growing sticky weed, as some are already at least a foot and a half tall.

A new *new beginning* for the wildscape's propagation crew was relocation to the recently-opened greenhouse at the ACTIV center this March. It's been a year since the use agreement was signed by the APRC and the wildscape leads. Finally, the greenhouse is ready for occupation. On March 3, Montana Williams and his APRC team assisted Josephine Keeney and her crew in packing up and transporting the many plants growing at the Randol Mill Park greenhouse to their new home. At the end of the day Josephine was tired, satisfied, and planning ahead. "The move worked out really well. They gave us lots of help. Now the big thing is to get organized. Right now, we have the plants any which way. So I have to decide what should go where. What's gonna need more light? What's gonna need less light? We'll be organizing at least for this month and next month." Long time propagator Joe Martinez said of the new greenhouse, "We have more lighting, more room." They also have automated overhead sprinklers. Another plus the team has are two dedicated community garden plots. Josephine is considering planting one with prairie grasses and wildflowers and the other as a pollinator bed with host plants and nectar plants.

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Even with Josephine for scale, the old greenhouse looks small. Dana Austin photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 19, continued on page 21



Above, Out of the old! Josephine Keeney and Wendy Pappas. Carol Marcotte photo. Below, Into the new! Ann Knudsen photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 20, continued on page 22

Moving Day



Above left, Dana Austin helps with transporting plants. Ann Knudsen photo. Right, Carol Marcotte brings in pots and trays as Frank Keeney looks on. Ann Knudsen photo. Below left, Joe Martinez and Charley Amos rearrange the furniture. Marian Hiler photo. Hester Schwarzer tends to the plants as Joe Martinez shows off in the back. Marian Hiler photo.



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Moving day, finished at last



Above left, Charley helps with organizing potting materials. Marian Hiler photo. Right, Josephine considers what may go in their dedicated plots. Marian Hiler photo. Below, Moving day crew. Front to back: Joe Martinez, Kay Sekio, Ann Knudsen, Hester Schwarzer, Sean Peacock, Dana Austin, Josephine Keeney, Alex Brown, and Carol Marcotte. Frank Keeney photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 22, continued on page 24



Above left, Carol Marcotte and Christine Brinson clean up one of the sidewalk beds. Marian Hiler photo. Right, Marylee Thomason and Lynn Chen work along the disc golf fairway. Marian Hiler photo. Below, Doug Land, Lynn Chen and Johanna Posey go after this year's crop of cats ears. Ann Knudsen photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 23, continued on page 25



*Left, Lynn Chen helps Josephine trim back the *Salvia greggii*. Bottom left, Dana Austin preps for fall aster relocation. Below, Joe Martinez keeps the sidewalks clear of mini-mudslides. Marian Hiler photos.*



Wildscape Update continued from page 22, continued on page 29



Left, Volunteers pull weeds on a beautiful spring workday. Ann Knudsen photo. Below, Ezra Harris, our youngest volunteer. Melanie Harris photo.



Volunteer Opportunities 9 – noon Wednesdays and first Saturdays.

All are welcome, no experience necessary. Members of ecology and garden groups can earn credit hours.

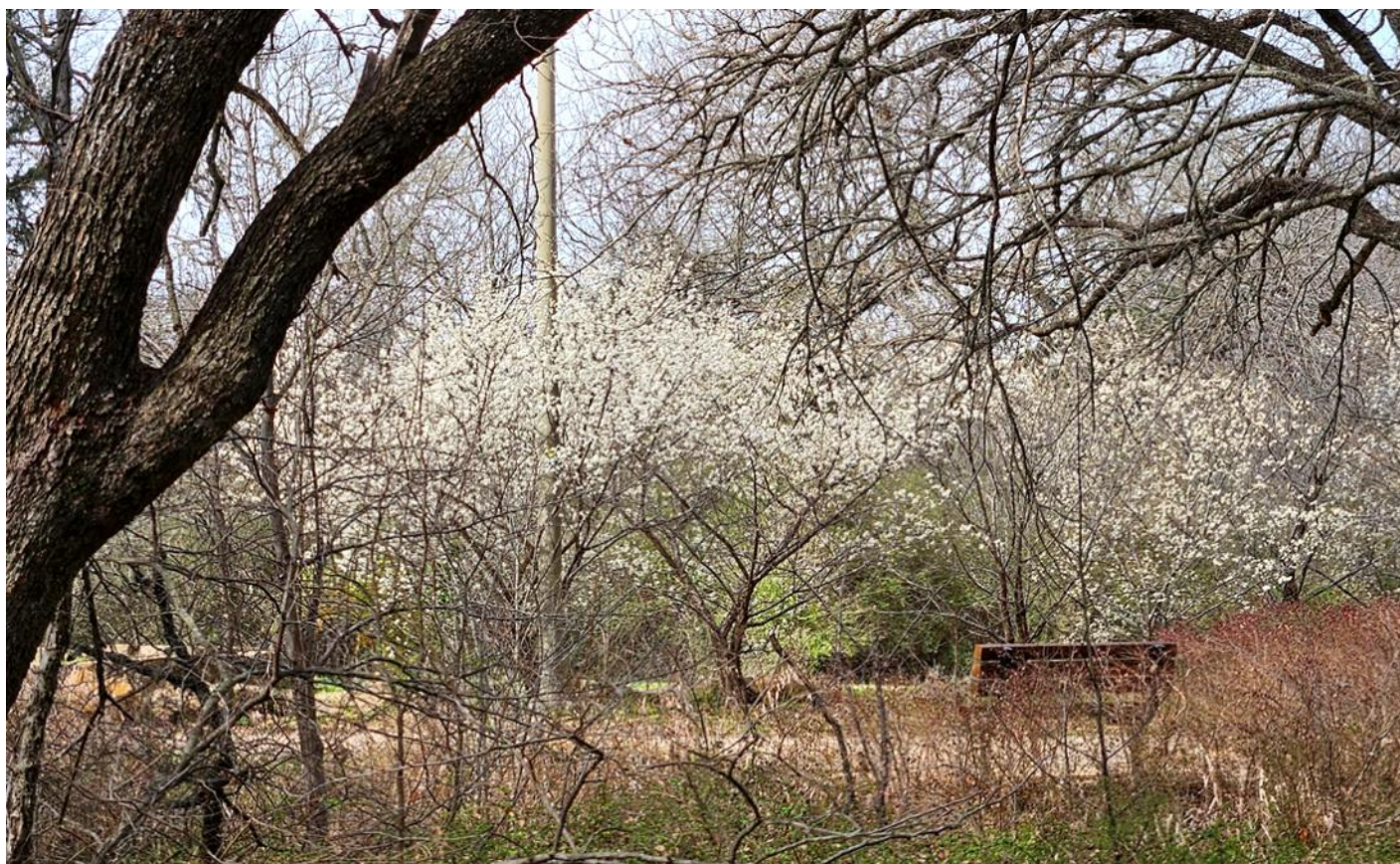
For more information contact info@thewildscape.org

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Wildscape Extra



Above from left, Giant Spiderwort. Lynn Chen photo. Golden groundsel. Marian Hiler photo. Texas Mountain Laurel. Ann Knudsen photo. Below, Mexican plum trees seen from the pavilion. Ann Knudsen photo.



Social Media? Yup.

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



What do you want to talk about today?

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

APRCD and Friends of SCNP Working Together Annabelle Corboy

On March 6, representatives from APRCD (Arlington Parks, Recreation and Culture Department) and Friends of SCNP met at the preserve for what's become an annual meeting to share priorities, opportunities, and areas of concern specifically related to Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve.

From APRCD, Devin Steward, Parks Operations Manager, Matt King, Park District Supervisor - South, and Brent Allison. And from the Friends of SCNP, Jan Miller, Rudy Arnold, Laura Capik, Jim Frisinger, Annabelle Corboy.

On the agenda - a lot about trails, including an upcoming volunteer trail maintenance day with South-Point Constructors and the potential to bring in a company that would rebuild some of the steeper trails to mitigate erosion. Also always on the agenda, how to address invasive plant removal, privet for example, restoration activities, especially re-establishing native plants, and defining a mowing schedule that is appropriate for a preserve.

In regard to the mowing, there has been a very effective group made up of members of APRCD and representatives from SCNP and other natural areas within the Arlington parks system. The outcome has been guidelines that address timing and height of mowing. This year's early March mowing at SCNP was the successful result of this partnership.

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Rudy pointing out rogue trails, with Jim and Devin.



From left, Jan, Matt, and Brent at the bluff.

SCNP continued from page 28, continued on page 30

APRCD and Friends of SCNP Working Together Annabelle Corboy



From left, Brent, Matt, Jan, Laura, Devin, Matt. Annabelle Corboy photo. Below, boulders near the bluff.



SCNP continued from page 29, continued on page 31**Third Saturday Volunteers — February** Jim Frisinger

Third Saturday volunteers were trailblazing a path of discovery last month. The plan: cut a trail from east to west from the Blue Trail coming off the Bluff View to where it meets the Blue Trail again near one of the old ranch building foundations. The purpose: lay down a baseline transect to establish quadrants to map the forest. This will help launch a methodic removal of invasives on the north slope of Kennedale Mountain.

Beside privet, there is significant presence of nandina (invaders from urban landscapes) and winter honeysuckle (remnant of landscaping by previous land owners Bill and Rosa Fagan circa 1982).

Major discoveries: density of privet varies greatly. One open space shows evidence of young oaks and coralberry, but it is the exception, not the rule and proves the danger of letting invasives get out of control. Also, toward the east end of the transect is a towering grove of yaupon hollies. They are native to East Texas but not here — again, probably an invader from urban landscapes.

Next step: Begin invasive removal by volunteers in south-to-north strips down the hill from the transect to the Blue Trail (the old road on the North Prairie).

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Jim Frisinger celebrates reaching the east end of the transect.



Denise Pederson and Annabelle Corboy blaze the transect trail at the preserve.



Denise and Annabelle at work where the transect bisects a huge grove of yaupon hollies.

SCNP continued from page 30, continued on page 32**The North Prairie Has Been Mowed!** Jim Frisinger

The Friends' long-sought effort to advance prairie restoration with an expanded mowing program reached a major milestone last month. For the first time in decades the North Prairie has been mowed. Also for the first time two pocket prairies were mowed: Area B (adjacent to the amphitheater) and Area D (located just south of the Glen Rose Yucca Meadow adjacent to the Blue Trail).

Before this, only the Pollinator Meadow had received annual mid-winter mowing.

Mowing halts advancing woody plants from erasing these prairies from the landscape. This is required in the absence of browsing mammals (bison and deer) and fire suppression — which were both part of the Cross Timbers ecology for thousands of years. It also helps spur healthy prairie plant growth.

The Friends will work with our partners at the City of Arlington toward making this winter mowing program an annual event.

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Right above, Large gang mower used to mow the North Prairie last month. Middle, The mowed meadow just north of the Caddo Oak. Below, Area D, a new restoration pocket prairie. Jim Frisinger photos.



SCNP continued from page 31**SCNP iNaturalist Observations — February** Annabelle Corboy

February marks the beginning of spring (this year for sure) and the waning days of winter's visitors. Visits picked up in February, more than doubling the January totals for observations and species: 102 Observations; 74 Species; 8 Observers.

Totals at SCNP at the end of February:

25,432 Observations / 2,163 Species / 2,078 Identifiers / 350 Observers



From left, Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) - sam_dragon-moore, Engelmänn Daisy (*Engelmannia peristenia*) - joshmols, Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*) - sam_dragon-moore.



From left, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Corthylio calendula*) - jaytee60, - Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*) - joshmols

Blackland Prairie Preserve Guy Random

*Tentative flowers
dipping their floral toes in.
Is this really spring?
Some rain would be nice.
Let's have more flooded gilgai
for a week or so.*



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Address _____

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Our April Zoom Meeting



See page 6 for more on this meeting.