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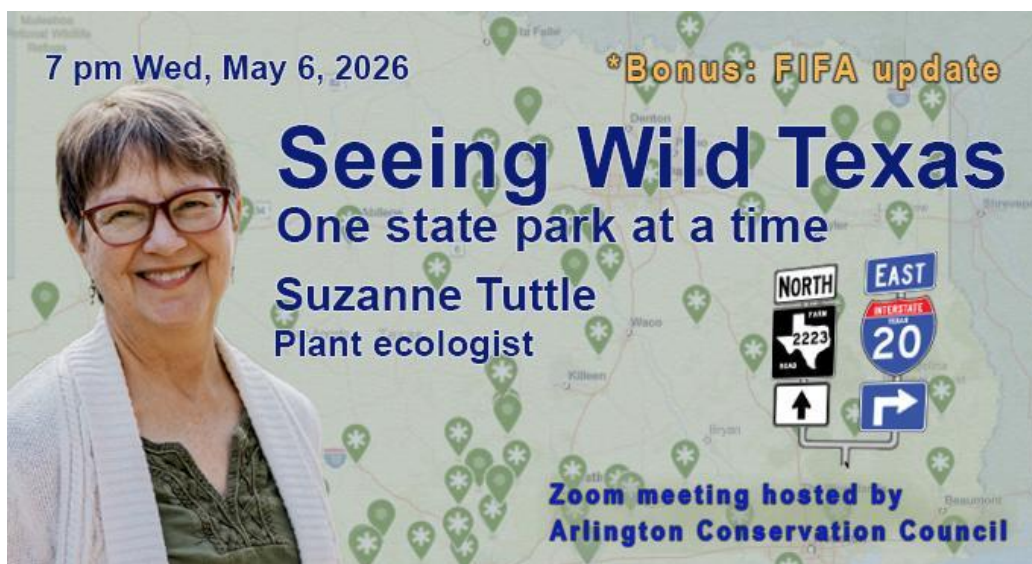
POST OAK

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2026

POND TRIANGLE GARDEN • RANDOL MILL PARK • CAROL MARCOTTE PHOTO

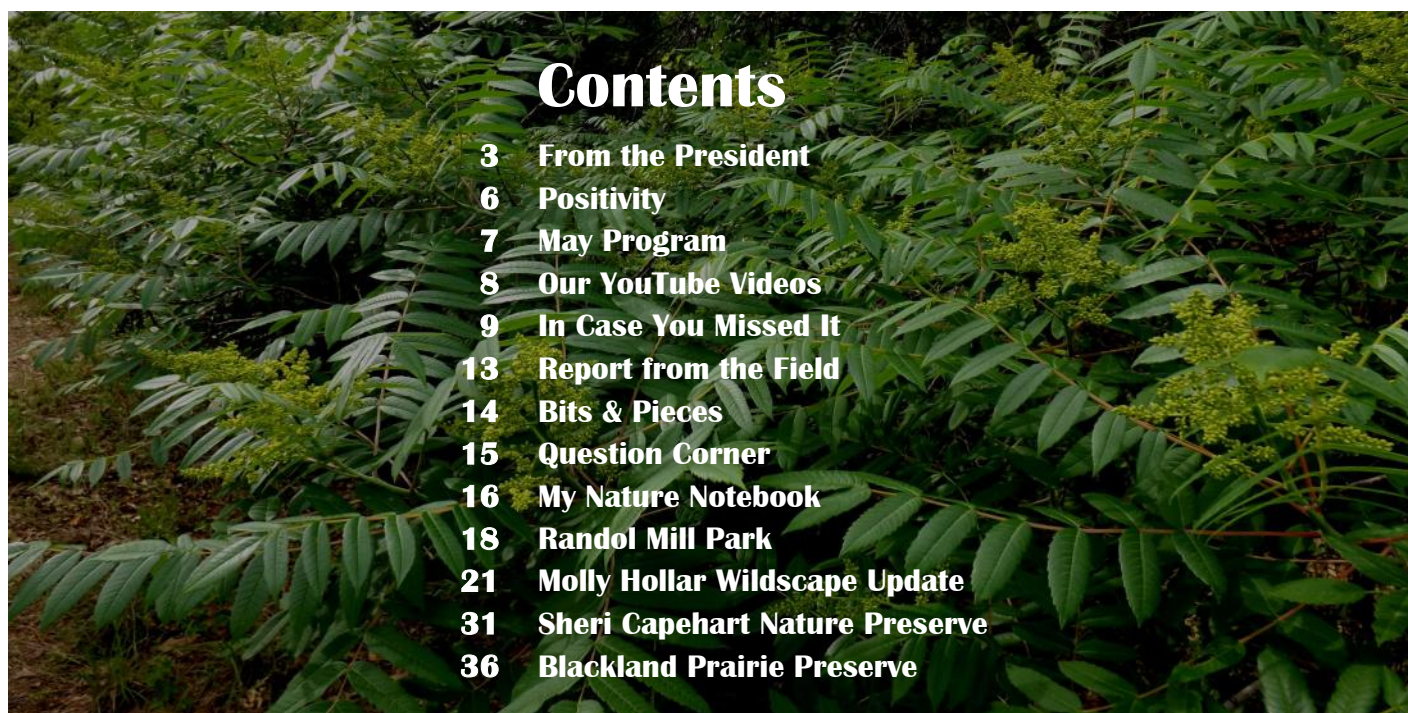
May Zoom Meeting



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

Join Zoom meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82652140362>

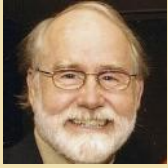
**For assistance accessing the meeting, contact Frank Keeney,
webmaster@acctexas.org**



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From the President **Dick Schoech**



Ideas to Improve the Environment

In response to all of the state and federal chaos, ACC has focused on what works locally to improve the environment. Successful activities include mulching trails, supporting Friends of the Parks groups, bioblitzes and quarterly meetings with our parks department. We've had less success recruiting volunteers and removing invasive plants.

The New York Times asked readers to submit environmental wins, and 3,200 victories poured in from all 50 states. Some of the ideas sound quite replicable. Have a sampling:

"I've been rescuing bugs from the trap of nighttime lighting, like the ones that flew into my aunt's house last night when the doors were open, drawn in by the glow. Sometimes I can save 20 in an hour. It's thrilling. It's empowering. And it makes you wonder: Why are we even here, if we're letting animals die simply because we don't notice them? If there's one place you can be a hero, it's your own house, your own backyard. You can save so many animals just by paying attention. It's really a mindset shift. There's so much magic in our neighborhoods. So much heartbreak, too. But wow, definitely some magic." *Nicola Plowman, California*

"Our large homeowner association in Irving, Texas, has recently earned the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat certification. We switched to native plantings in nine parks and 20 common areas, converted four acres to native pollinator-friendly wildflowers and grasses, planted native trees and installed dark sky public lighting. We also educate residents, who have now certified 135 individual homes and a commercial property. Volunteers with the Valley Ranch Association's green club did it with help and funding from the federal government, national nonprofits, local businesses, our H.O.A. and private donors. Our community is working hard to protect our urban wildlife and pollinators." *Nancy Payne, Texas*

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

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John Darling, editor
ldarling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

Rudy Arnold, Annabelle Corboy,
Prof. J. Lewis Corner,
Grace Darling, John Darling,
John Dycus, Jim Frisinger,
Marian Hiler, Ann Knudsen,
Carol Marcotte, Ivan Querido,
Guy Random, Dick Schoech,
Michael Smith

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

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

From the President *continued from page 3*

“In North Carolina, we are U.N.C. students who created the nonprofit SolarEquity to bring affordable renewable energy to low- to moderate-income communities. In the Southeast, it is difficult to implement renewable energy in affordable ways due to regulations and utility constraints, so we decided to be the intermediary between communities, affordable housing organizations and financial entities to bring solar and energy efficiency to places often left out of the energy transition, while decreasing carbon emissions.” *Kaya Johnson, North Carolina*

“I write a vegan recipe and educational column called Recipe for a Healthy Planet for our local newspaper, The *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*. I worked on a web portal of the same name for our local environmental education center, the Harris Center. We’re educating people about how food choices affect the environment.” *Lisa Murray, New Hampshire*

“In terms of decarbonizing buildings, everybody despairs about getting America’s builders, HVAC contractors and homeowners to accept electrification. There are so many people to persuade! A big New Mexico developer has figured it out: He doesn’t put gas infrastructure into his new developments in the city of Las Cruces, which saves him millions of dollars in unnecessary infrastructure. Just like that, a development is on the path to being 100 percent decarbonized. He is in the middle of a 6,000-lot housing project now, with homes selling out quickly. He can’t figure out why more developers aren’t doing it.” *Don Kurtz, New Mexico. The Times* added the developer, John Moscato, said not adding gas lines to developments saved him \$3,000 per lot.

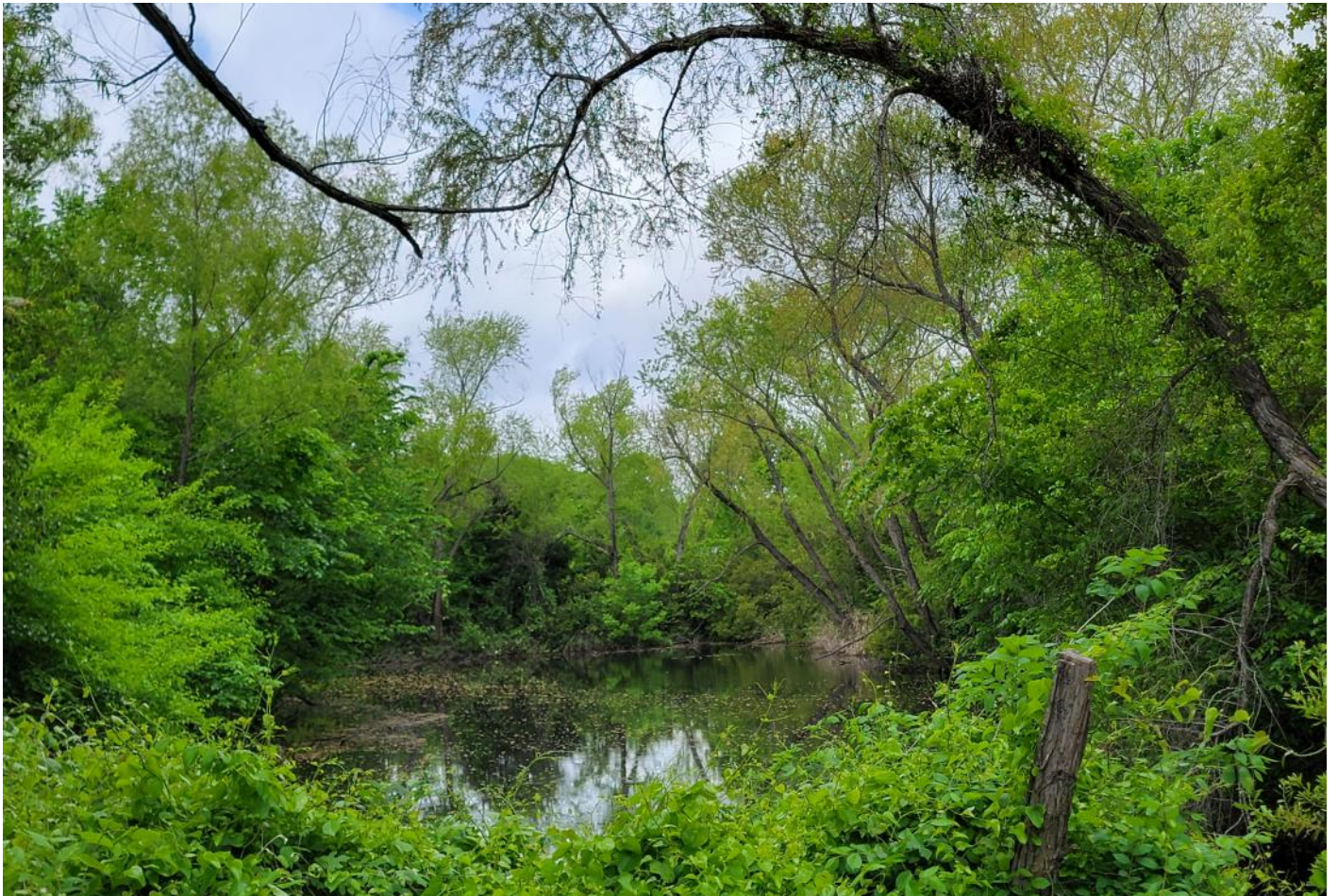
“I’m writing on behalf of my friend, Douglas Johnston, who lives in Piscataway, N.J. An avid hiker, Doug serves his community and his environment by picking up trash from the trails. He never leaves the house without a trash bag and grabber. Doug knows I’m submitting this; he’s too humble to do it himself. He’s making a difference quietly.” *Kate Baker, New Jersey*

“We are a small group of fly fishers concerned about cold, clean water. We have constructed more than 100 beaver dam analogues to keep more water on the landscape. These B.D.A.s not only store, cool and spread water but also provide habitat for many species of animals and plants.” *William Young, South Dakota*

For more information and pictures related to some of the ideas above

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/12/28/climate/us-eco-friendly-projects-readers.html?unlocked_article_code=1.bVA.m9b2.DISM5g2jDvhQ&smid=nytcore-android-share

From the President continued from page 4



Pond at Tierra Verde Golf Club. Dick Schoech photo.

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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.



So you take some ecology classes and you think you know things. But not [this story](#): It's about fire-loving fungi that appear first after wildfires and appear to make soil fit for other pioneer organisms to colonize. Even for fungi, digesting charcoal seems extreme, and many of them are good lookers, too.



Forget goats, if you want to reduce wildfire risk, [get donkeys](#). That's what's happening in parts of Spain that have been plagued by terrible fires exacerbated by bone-dry weather and crisp vegetation. Since 2014, donkeys have grazed around Doñana National Park, and there have been no fires for nine years.



Here's the gist of a headline: [Mexico's Monarch population](#) jumps 64%, offering hope. And this: The insects covered their largest area since 2018, despite threats from habitat loss, climate crisis, and pesticides. Not to mention illegal logging for avocado farming. But still, hope.



[Former coal mines](#) in eastern Germany are being transformed into a very large complex of lakes through a decades-long project. A major portion is nearing completion, resulting in lakes covering over 35,000 acres. Old scars are becoming tourist spots and water storage areas.

May Zoom Meeting: Wednesday, May 6

Seeing Wild Texas one state park at a time Suzanne Tuttle Plant ecologist

Join Zoom meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82652140362>

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

What's on your bucket list? Suzanne Tuttle's had a couple of forests and free-flowing streams and native plants, native plants, native plants as far as the eye could see.

A plant ecologist, she was determined in retirement to explore every Texas state park and natural area. Despite the pandemic slowdown, she joyfully completed her 16-year quest Oct. 22, 2022, at Palmetto State Park near San Antonio. That's a lot of adventures and insights, tales and trails! She will share the high points in her ACC presentation.

Suzanne retired as Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge manager after 23 years at the park. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from UT Arlington and an Associate of Applied Science in horticulture from Tarrant County Junior College (now TCC). She has taught training classes for numerous area Texas Master Naturalist chapters since 1999 and helped found the Cross Timbers Chapter. She enjoys visiting the Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve and has conducted many classes there.

As a bonus, UTA Chief Sustainability Officer Meghna Tare will give a quick update on FIFA's strategy for waste management, climate change, and education during the games. She serves a similar role for World Cup 2026 and focuses on minimizing the games' environmental footprint while empowering local communities and securing a resilient legacy for the Dallas-Fort Worth area.



Caprock Canyons State Park

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, April 2026



[Beyond Parks – Update on the Redesigned Department](#)

Gary Packan, March 2026



[Horned Lizards and Horny Toads](#)

Michael Smith, February 2026



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

January 2026



[The Wonderful World of Bats](#)

Hester Schwarzer and Ellen Ravkind, November 2025



[Spiders in the Garden](#)

Meghan Cassidy, October 2025



[Soils for Wildlife](#)

Sam Kieschnick, September 2025



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

Michael Smith, August 2025



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

Eric Pratt, June 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, April 2025



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

Kimberlee Peterson, March 2025



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

Kate Morgan, February 2025



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

January 2025



[What I learned in South Africa: Climate Adaptations for Texas Plants](#)

Laura Miller, November 2024



[Looking Forward: The Next Legislative Session](#)

Rita Beving, October 2024



[Solar Hybrid Pumping Solution](#)

Larry Bentley, September 2024



[Native Plants Are for the Birds](#)

Charley Amos, August 2024



[Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation](#)

Ian Bryant, June 2024



[The Benefits of Native Plants](#)

Ann Knudsen, May 2024



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

Rita Beving, April 2024



[Prairie Restoration in the Built Environment](#)

Clint Hail, March 2024



[Trees as Habitat for Wildlife](#)

Hester Schwarzer, February 2024



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

January 2024



[Texas Turtles](#)

Carl J. Franklin and Viviana Ricardez, November 2023



[Weathering the Climate Change Storm](#)

Jeff Ray, October 2023

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



The **Draft 2027 State Water Plan** is posted for public comment (see link below). This is the sixth plan developed through the collaborative work of hundreds of stakeholders across the state representing 16 regional water planning groups to assess and address their future water supply needs. The 2027 plan identifies thousands of actionable strategies and projects — complete with projected costs and sponsoring entities — that will help Texas meet its water needs and remain resilient during future droughts. [Draft 2027 State Water Plan - Water for Texas](#)

The Texas Water Development Board will receive public comments on the Draft 2027 State Water Plan until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2026. Submit written comments online [HERE](#). In addition, the TWDB will also hold a public hearing at 1:00 pm on

May 27, 2026, in room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas and via [Teams Meeting](#) (Meeting ID: 280 904 566 316 4; Passcode: fp9Lk2bs. Audio access only: 512-298-6360; phone conference ID: 508 590 523#). If you would like to provide public comments in person or via virtual attendance, you must fill out the [online registration form](#) and send it to SWPPublicComment@twdb.texas.gov by 12:00 p.m. on May 27, 2026. <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2027/index.asp>



The cost of preventing a water crisis in Texas over the next half century has soared to \$174 billion, according to the draft 2027 state water plan (above). The plan includes 3,000 projects and 6,700 strategies, such as recycled water and conservation,

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which officials say would provide 2.7 million acre-feet per year in additional water supplies in 2030. Planners said the significant increase in costs to implement the most urgent projects was expected because of many factors, such as: water infrastructure projects are becoming more costly and complex; regions pursue more distant supplies; inflation in construction costs; extending the planning horizon to 2080; and lingering supply chain impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Toledo Bend Reservoir project alone — which was included as a recommended strategy to solve the conflict between Region C and Region D over the contentious proposed Marvin Nichols reservoir in NE Texas — added \$9.8 billion to the plan's total cost. [Nevertheless,] a lack of implementation paired with a severe drought could cause an estimated \$91 billion in economic damages to the state in 2030. [DMN, 4/19/26]

“Climate change didn’t cause the anomalous weather pattern, but it made the impact of those anomalous weather patterns that much greater.” — *Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon, DMN, 3/31/26*

In early April, the EPA announced a **draft Critical Contaminants List (CCL 6)** that includes four contaminant groups—microplastics, pharmaceuticals, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and disinfection byproducts—as well as 75 chemicals and nine microbes that may be found in drinking water. These contaminants are currently not subject to any regulations but are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and may require future regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. [EPA.gov/ccl]

The announcement comes notwithstanding the Trump administration’s broader deregulatory agenda, including its push to promote domestic fossil fuel production — fossil fuels being the



petrochemical feedstock from which plastics are derived — and its directive to federal agencies to return to plastic straws and end procurement of paper straws. The CCL 6 designation appears driven in part by the Make America Healthy Again movement’s focus on environmental contaminants in food and water, suggesting that microplastics will remain a federal priority even within an administration that has otherwise moved to reduce regulatory burdens on industry. [EPA.gov; environblog.jenner.com]



The **price of computing gear has been increasing at an alarming rate** thanks to a

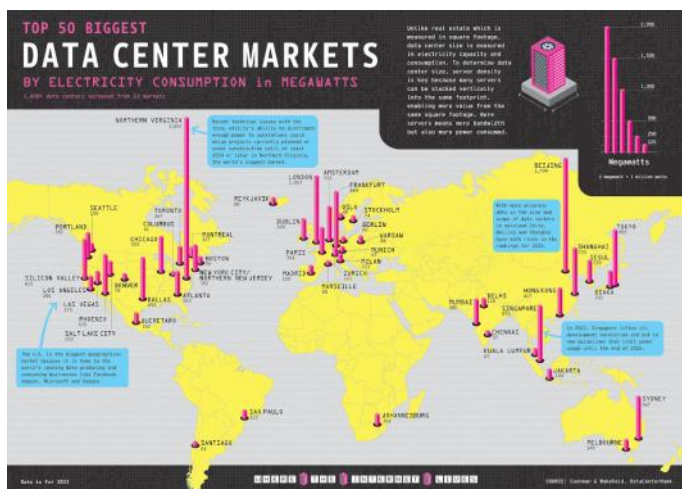
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In Case continued from page 10

shortage of memory and solid-state storage chips. A slew of developments and announcements over the past few weeks indicate that “later” has arrived, and if you have not purchased the computer, tablet, smartphone or game console you need, you’re going to pay more than you would have — in many cases, a lot more, says Dwight Silverman of the Houston Chronicle [4/18/26]. A shortage of AI memory chips is beginning to hammer profits, derail corporate plans, and inflate price tags on everything from laptops and smartphones to automobiles and data centers — and the crunch is only going to get worse, warn Elon Musk (Tesla) and Tim Cook (Apple). The fundamental reason for the squeeze is the buildout of AI data centers. Some companies are buying millions of Nvidia AI accelerators that come with huge allotments of memory to run their chatbots and other applications, which leaves consumer electronics producers fighting over a dwindling supply of DRAM chips. The soaring cost and limited supply of computer memory — which some are calling “RAMmageddon” — is also impacting science, slowing some projects and spurring creative approaches. [Nature.com, 3/13/26]

energy by 2030. [Nature.com, 4/10/25] According to the [International Energy Agency](#) (IEA), in 2022 data centers consumed 1.65 billion gigajoules of electricity, about 2% of global demand, and by 2026, the agency projects that data centers’ energy consumption will have increased by between 35% and 128% — amounts equivalent to adding the annual energy consumption of Sweden at the lower estimate or Germany at the top end. One potential driver of this increase is the shift to AI-powered web searches: a typical request to ChatGPT consumes 10 kilojoules, roughly 10X as much as a conventional Google search.

Although widespread deployment of AI will only increase electricity use, companies seem to have calculated that these energy costs are a worthy investment. Google’s 2024 [environmental report](#) revealed its carbon emissions have increased by 48% in 5 years. In May, Microsoft president Brad Smith said that the company’s emissions had risen by 30% since 2020. Nobody wants a huge energy bill, but companies that make AI models are focused on attaining the best results and “people don’t care about energy efficiency when you’re training the world’s largest [generative AI] model,” says a computer engineer at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign.

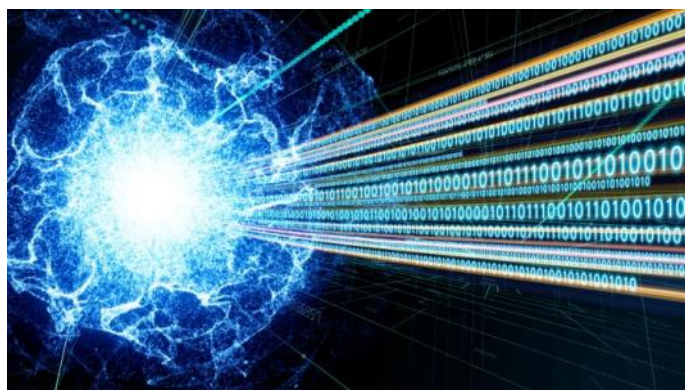


Driven by AI, **data centers accounted for roughly 1.5% of global electricity consumption in 2024** and will use twice as much

The AI-energy problem has also invigorated work in **photonics**. Data travel more efficiently when encoded in light than along electrical wires, which is why optical fibers are used to bring high-speed Internet to neighborhoods and even to connect banks of servers in data centers. Photonic systems offer fundamental advantages over electronic circuits. Light-based signals can travel faster, generate less heat, and support higher bandwidth, making them ideal for data intensive

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applications. The ability to generate and control any wavelength on chip enhances compatibility across systems, improving performance in areas such as data transmission and sensing. But bringing these connections onto chips has been challenging; optical devices have historically been bulky and sensitive to small temperature variations.

Recently, researchers in China described a photonic AI chip that they say can generate tunes in the style of German composer Johann Sebastian Bach and images in the style of Norwegian painter Edvard Munch while using less energy than a GPU would. Closer to home, scientists at the National Institute of Standards and Technology report a major advance in photonic computing by creating chip-scale lasers that can operate across virtually any wavelength — flexible tuning. This breakthrough moves the industry closer to building integrated circuits that use light instead of electricity for processing and communication, significantly expanding functionality. [linkedin.com/posts/keith-king-03a172128_programmable-photonic-chips-enable-lasers-share-7453159942661816320-4nBd/]

On April 2, the North Texas FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee and the North Central Texas Council of Governments unveiled the transportation



plan that will move thousands of fans and visitors traveling to DFW for matches in Arlington, or the free and open to the public FIFA Fan Festival Dallas at Fair Park and other venues connected to the world's largest sporting event. Knowing World Cup spectators rely far more heavily on public transit than typical American football fans, **public transit is the backbone of the plan.** For instance,

- Ticket holders can ride the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) from Fort Worth or Dallas to CentrePort Station. From there, they will take a charter bus to the Bus Hub, the designated transit drop-off zone near the stadium. Fans will then have a short, half-mile walk to the entrance.
- Trinity Metro will lease dozens of buses for 42 games during the summer. Those buses will move people from the CentrePort Station south of DFW Airport to Dallas Stadium (aka Arlington's AT&T stadium) for the duration of the games. [DMN, 3/30/26]
- Spectators can also use rideshare services to attend matches. The Esports Stadium Arlington lot has been designated for rideshare companies to operate pick-up and drop-off.

More information about the transportation plan can be found at [Travel & Transportation - FIFA World Cup 26 Dallas.™](#)

Report from the Field Ivan Querido

Just stop right here for one minute only, please: “One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen.”

– Aldo Leopold, [A Sand County Almanac](#). Dr. Leopold died in 1948 when maybe the damage was harder to see. And maybe today he would admit many bad things are visible, impossible to miss, but ignored anyway. Really? Yes! Just come for a stroll through part of Julia Burgen Park and glimpse a little world of big wounds.



Above, A small creek runs by our first wretched gas well. Brush and small trees recently cleared to the north of a little bridge, untouched (so far) on the south. Yes, filled with privet, but that’s where the birds are. So many of them need the dense brush.



Above, Johnson Creek: To the east, arranged for flood control with banks pulled back, all plants removed. Now weedy and filling with silt (again). On the west, the way it was, imperfect, deeply eroded with trees undercut and falling over. But here’s habitat for everything, maybe from centuries ago. *Below*, Just two odd bits: Microplastics in the making, ready to fall in the creek with the next rain. And a modern version of a turtle haul-out. At least Red-ears are happy here.



Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



Today's gardening tip:

Don't plant anything you like within reach of pathological pedestrians.

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

Arachnophilia. It's OK



On a happier note, Dick Schoech sent in this *Anasaitis* jumping spider next to a penny. Big stuff here in a tiny package. Have a look at [this site](#) for more. Scroll way down to a video where you'll see some appealing behavior.



Eve's necklace.

Hopper Whopper



One more tiny insect, a Camel treehopper that showed up at a UV light. Although dwarfed by small moths, there's a lot going on here besides good looks. [Listen here](#) to the male courtship call and read about the Camel's nymphs, some ants, and a butterfly.

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



Question Corner Professor J. Lewis Corner

Q: Okay, against my better judgement I'm giving you one more chance to imitate a responsible adult. This thing I've never seen before just showed up in my yard. It's white with tiny holes all over, and it has sort of swallowed up bits of raggedy grass. Of course, I want it to be a slime mold, but why don't you tell me what you think.

A. I think adults are overrated, but moving on, why don't you believe it's a fungus with one of the finest names ever bestowed on any creature? I mean, it looks like a young Frothy porecrust that really ought to be consuming dead wood, not torturing grass. And wouldn't you think Frothy porecrust would be perfect as the name of a kindly old elf in a children's book? Next!



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John DYCUS

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

Paul Krudsen's
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Event Photography

Portfolio_Studio@yahoo.com
817.265.4441

Law Office of
SHANE GOETZ

3705 N Shadycreek Dr
Arlington, TX 76013
shane@goetzlaw.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

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Prairie groundsel.

My Nature Notebook

Really, really nasty

So Little Stupid was saying he wants me to call him Brainiac when we saw gross stuff in the Creepy Old Guy's compost pile and found a stick to poke it with. But then the COG caught us and I said what is that and I'm telling. He said they're cantaloupes



I pulled from the trash over at the Mustang Diner. And I said but they're all rotten and he said but that's fine for my compost, it's all about rot. So of course "Brainiac" had to say all that mold is good food for booklice, springtails, mold mites, isopods, cockroaches, termites, and fungus beetles, And all those things are food for higher trophic level organisms in the compost food web. A lot of compost is excrement, of course. Can we watch cartoons now?

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

Bluebird nest boxes are off to a good start!
Currently, there are 14 boxes spaced around the park.

As of April 13, we have
9 eggs,
21 nestlings,
and 11 birds have fledged.

continued on page 19



Randol Mill Park continued from page 18, continued on page 20

March Volunteer work day at the Pond Triangle Garden was full of fun and excitement. We were visited by Parks Department staff and told how beautiful the garden looks. Yay, volunteers Ann Hawkins, Dick Schoech, Patsy Miller and Faith Salfren! Carol Marcotte photos.



Randol Mill Park continued from page 19

Could you play a part here?

Our Regular Volunteer Day is the 4th Thursday of each month from 9 till noon.

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

Contact: Carol Marcotte. Cell 817-793-3917



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update **Marian Hiler**

Weeding. Some planting. More weeding. We welcomed the rain, though it prevented UTA's scheduled Big Event on April 18. But we're still very happy to have gotten that rain.

North Prairie installation

Now's a good time to bring out early photos of the spot behind the amphitheater. They will remind us what that once bare field used to look like. Its transformation is awe inspiring. Beginning in December of 2024, grasses and forbs rescued from a not-too-distant prairie about to be lost to destructive development were planted in what is becoming the wildscape's own little prairie. I remember Molly Hollar would often offer up encouraging words to be patient when planting, reminding us of the adage, "The first year they sleep. The second year they creep. The third year they leap." Well, there's lots of sleeping, creeping and even a little leaping going on. The first planted were prairie grasses such as Little and Big bluestem and Eastern gamagrass and forbs like Mealy blue sage, Liatris, and Four-nerve daisy. They are beginning to fill out and spread. Also, there are surprises that keep revealing themselves; plants and seeds that came along for the rescue ride. Gallardia, Prairie verbena, Evening primrose, and more are blooming now and more to come. Ann Knudsen anticipates that in another two or three years we will be seeing an established prairie.

continued on page 22



Above left, View from the west in August 2024 of the to-be-prairie site. Right, Same view from the west today. Below left, Top view then. Right, Looks more like a prairie now. Ann Knudsen photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 21, continued on page 23



Above, From the northeast corner in August 2024. *Below*, Northeast corner now. Ann Knudsen photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 22, continued on page 24

More north prairie, then and now



Left, Culvert drainage seen from the top in August 2024. Marian Hiler photo. *Right*, Culvert drainage from below, now slowed down. Ann Knudsen photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 23, continued on page 25

North prairie surprises



Above, Prairie verbena. Below, Gallardia. Below right, Purple paintbrush. Ann Knudsen photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 24, continued on page 26



Above left, Doug Land and Ann Knudsen prep Purple paintbrush to go in the prairie. Right, Ann and Doug plant Cherokee sedge in the culvert drainage area. Below, John Snowden cuts back the Little bluestem spent tops. Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 25, continued on page 27



Above, Josephine Keeney keeps her butterfly garden well hydrated. Below, Melanie Harris and Carol Marcotte weed under the plums. Marian Hiler photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 26, continued on page 28

Left, Dana Austin and Alex Whitney remove the relentless sticky weed. Right, Lynn Chen and Patsy Miller keep the original berm in shape. Marian Hiler photos.



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

Wildscape Update continued from page 27, continued on page 29

First Saturday mini-classes

The first Saturday of **April** was a very cold and rainy day so no gathering at the wildscape. Instead, we all met at Pantego Cafe for a lesson on understory native trees. David Coke, Citizen Forester with Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council, covered the care and benefits of Carolina buckthorn, Desert willow, Eve's necklace, Lacey oak, Mexican plum, Redbud, and Yaupon holly. You can watch his mini-class and ones from Saturdays past on the wildscape's YouTube channel [here](#).

There will not be a first Saturday workday or mini-class on **May 2** in support of the [Native Plant Society's plant sale](#) at the Randol Mill Park pavilion in Arlington.

On **June 6**, Texas Master Naturalist and Native Plant Society representative Sandy Fountain will talk about NPSOT's landscaping certification classes. The classes — open to everyone — will teach you about native plants, how to use them in your landscape design and how to care for them.

Mini-classes are held in the compost area and begin about 11:30 as the workday volunteers put away the day's tools.



Right, Butterfly garden cascades onto the sidewalk. Below, White-lined sphinx caterpillar. Ann Knudsen photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 28

Wildscape Extra



*Above left, Buffalograss female flowers are burs. Right, The male flowers are short spikes. Ann Knudsen photos.
Below, Rusty blackhaw viburnum. Marian Hiler photo.*



Social Media? Yup.

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



What do you want to talk about today?

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve

The Kiosk is Here! Michael Smith

Another Reason to Use the Real Trailhead!

When you take a walk at the preserve, there is now a big display at the kiosk. That's the covered structure for information, and now there is a big map of the trails and a display of some of the things you can find in each type of habitat.

You get there from the north end of the parking lot. Take a few steps up to the trailhead and the kiosk is a few more steps away. Visitors will benefit from the valuable information to make walks even better. The map shows the layout of the preserve with habitats like "upland forest" or "grassland/savanna" and the various trails. And at the lower right, where it says "scan for trail map," there is a QR code, that funny square with black and white squiggles that your smartphone camera can use to access the map on your phone. That way, you can take the map along with you.

To the left, there is a list of the habitats and some of the species to look for, like Blackjack oak, Carolina chickadee, or Little bluestem. To the right of the map are a few sentences about the preserve and some tips for having a good walk and taking care of the preserve.

We're grateful to David White, who originated the kiosk as an Eagle Scout project in 2017. And then Arlington Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department (APRCD) worked with Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve to design the display that is now at the kiosk. We're grateful for the work that APRCD has done.

Michael Smith photos.



continued on page 32

SCNP continued from page 31, continued on page 33**North Prairie Trail Rerouting in Progress** Annabelle Corboy

On April 11, we took a big step in addressing a long-running issue with the Orange/Blue Trail along the southern edge of the North Prairie. The section of the trail from the Caddo Oak west to near the northwest gate is too straight, and it suffers from erosion due to heavy foot traffic and rain runoff with no place to go.

So Rudy Arnold and Jim Frisinger proposed that we reroute the trail to be more snake-like, creating curves and dips that will shed water from the trail along its length and prevent erosion. The modifications are intended to dump water off at the curves to drain onto the large meadow. The modifications were marked and the area prepared, initially by Rudy and Jim, but later with help from Jan Miller, Jim Fuquay, and Annabelle Corboy.

But the heavy lifting was done by South-Point Constructors, led by Travis Jendel. South-Point Constructors brought their volunteers and their Bobcat/skid steer in order to re-sculpt the trail, with Rudy and Jim Fuquay guiding the work. They were also joined by three Boy Scouts who did some trash pickup and then some skid steer supervision.

That same day, the South-Point team smoothed a stretch of the Yellow Trail and installed timbers in an area that's also had erosion problems.

These efforts are huge steps forward in protecting SCNP.

Annabelle Corboy and Rudy Arnold photos.



SCNP continued from page 32, continued on page 34**Third Saturday Volunteers — March 21** Annabelle Corboy

Third Saturday volunteers continued working on what we're referring to as a transect-based invasive removal project. In March we worked on the first transect, removing some large privets, plus nandina and winter honeysuckle.

The group also identified some plants that aren't common at SCNP: Yellow passionflower, Anglepod, an Eastern redbud tree, and Pitcher's leatherflower.



Above left, Yellow Passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*) – robbielc, Above right, Anglepod (*Gonolobus suberosus*) – joshmols, Below left, Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) – Postoak, Below right, Pitcher's Leatherflower (*Clematis pitcheri*) – Postoak.



SCNP continued from page 33, continued on page 35**SCNP iNaturalist Observations — March 2026** Annabelle Corboy

Visits picked up in March, more than tripling the February totals for observations and species: 382 Observations; 205 Species; 14 Observers.

See below for a sighting of a hard-to-spot mammal, first time recorded in iNat at SCNP.

Totals at SCNP at the end of March:

25,837 Observations / 2,176 Species / 2,117 Identifiers / 352 Observers



From left, Hispid Cotton Rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*) — krush6, Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) — sam_dragon-moore.



From left, Dusky-blue Groundsquirrel (*Calycopsis isobeon*) — sambiology, Rusty Blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*) — drawntoscales.

SCNP continued from page 34**SCNP iNaturalist Observations — March 2026** Annabelle Corboy

From left, Blue Corporal (*Ladona deplanata*) – Brentano, Sulphur-tipped Clubtail (*Phanogomphus militaris*) – sam_dragon-moore.



From left, Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) – Brentano, Cursed Crowfoot (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) – lizardsandlepidoptera.

Blackland Prairie Preserve

Guy Random



*Beetles, spittlebugs,
A few blooms yellow and blue.
What's a little mud
In all this chaos?
A trillion plants revving hard.
Sun and warmth at last.*



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Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216
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Our May Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, May 6



See page 7 for more on this meeting.