

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST oak

**VOLUME 26, NUMBER 6
JULY 2026**



HUMMINGBIRD ON NEST • VETERANS PARK • MARIAN HILER PHOTO

No July Zoom Meeting



No July meeting.

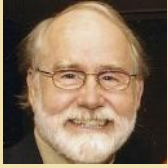
Really!

**See you
Wednesday,
August 5.**

Contents

- 3 From the President**
- 6 Positivity**
- 7 No July Program**
- 8 Our YouTube Videos**
- 9 In Case You Missed It**
- 13 Bits & Pieces**
- 14 Question Corner**
- 15 My Nature Notebook**
- 17 Molly Hollar Wildscape Update**
- 25 Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve**
- 30 Blackland Prairie Preserve**

From the President **Dick Schoech**



Reconciling Perspectives

Arlington is one of the few fortunate cities hosting an event where athletes represent their country in a challenge to be the world's best. The FIFA tournament resembles other global meets like the Olympics where the sport measures individual skills and teamwork as components of success.

The competition also brings together fans who cheer on their team's achievements. The soccer matches are broadcast so that everyone interested can savor the moment.

At the same time as FIFA, our federal government celebrated Donald Trump's 80th birthday and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by hosting a private for-profit, seven-match scrap featuring White House military flyovers. Martial arts combatants wearing little protective gear strutted through the Oval Office — the people's seat of power — to reach their caged stage.

Seats on the lawn went to the president's VIP friends and members of the military. Members of the public could pay to watch several hundred yards away on the National Mall. Or they could attend via a paid streaming service owned by one of Trump's biggest donors.

And there you have the wildly divergent stances on nature that environmentalists confront. How so? Contrast safari hunting of wild animals with how young 4-H members showcase their meticulously groomed animals at state fairs coast to coast.

On my Africa trip three years ago, a rural resident said visiting hunters with powerful weapons target the choicest local animals simply for a trophy kill and bragging rights. But killing animals with the best survival potential disrupts natural selection. This view that humans should dominate nature for the paying hunter's pleasure is all kinds of wrong — misguided and hateful, wasteful and mean.

continued on page 4



ACC POST OAK

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

Published 10 times a year by
Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216
Arlington, TX 76004-0216

John Darling, editor
ldarling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

Lynn Chen, Annabelle Corboy,
J. Lewis Corner, Grace Darling,
John Darling, Jim Domke,
John Dycus, Marian Hiler,
Ann Knudsen, Guy Random,
Kate Rugroden, Dick Schoech,
Michael Smith

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

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

From the President *continued from page 3*

The two perspectives and new technologies like AI heavily influence the culture environmentalists experience as they work in nature. The seeming inability to reconcile these perspectives makes it difficult to solve major problems like climate change. ACC's Post Oak Nature Notebook continually illustrates these incompatible views in the dialogue between the grumpy old dyspeptic environmentalist and the kid trying to understand the dilemmas such at-odds perspectives pose.

I applaud ACC's efforts to encourage one perspective and weaken the other by engaging in team building and educational activities that unlock the beauty, power and benefits that nature provides.



Roughstem rosinweed at Blackland Prairie Preserve, Southeast Arlington, May 31, 2026.

It's a beetle. It's a milkweed. It's a milkweed beetle.

Texas milkweed beetle on Green milkweed at Blackland Prairie Preserve, June 21, 2026.



Sign up for weekly
Arlington news.

[Subscribe to the Arlington Report](#)



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.



More from the Keep It Simple file: In several parts of Africa, they [paint the roofs](#) of houses with white reflective paint and compare interior temps with controls. So far, the painted roofs are 3-4C cooler inside, enough to make a difference in comfort and sleep.



Okay, so here's China [lowering a data center](#) into the ocean to be cooled by seawater and powered by wind-generated electricity. It mostly sounds great compared to the way we do this, but it's a little worrying to think about all that heated ocean water.



[Lots to like in this report](#): Przewalski's horse reintroduction in China surpassed 900 individuals, one-third of the global population. One of the most impressive features is the work to overcome the terrible genetic bottleneck caused by starting with a tiny number of surviving horses.



How about [cutting food waste](#) while boosting the incomes of African farmers? Off-grid solar cold rooms look like the solution to a huge problem. But the lack of big investment is holding things back.

No July Zoom Meeting

No July Zoom meeting?

**Right.
Just look for us
on August 5th.**



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](#)

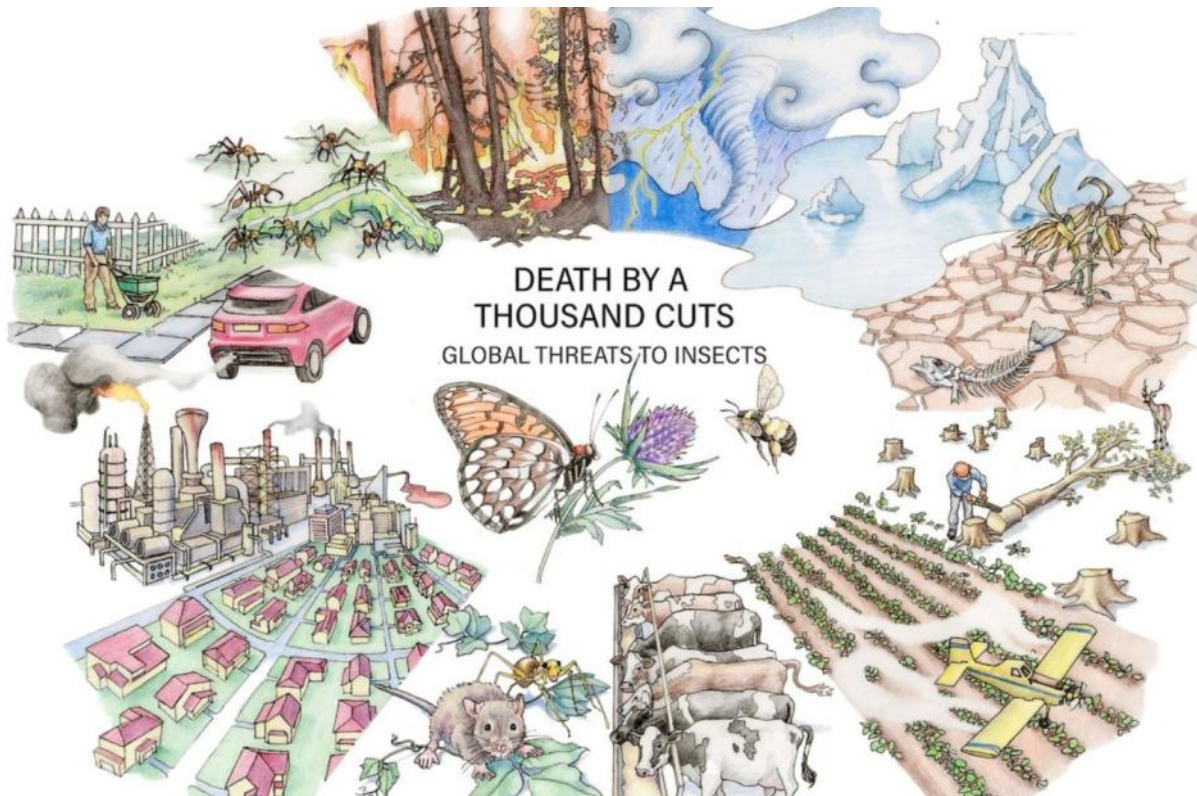
Carl J. Franklin and Viviana Ricardez, November 2023



[Weathering the Climate Change Storm](#)

Jeff Ray, October 2023

In Case You Missed It Grace Darling



The most alarming wildlife decline of our time may be the one almost no one notices, because the animals are so small. Insects are the hidden machinery of nature — pollinating crops, recycling waste, and feeding countless birds, fish, and mammals. And the evidence suggests they are vanishing.

THE STUDY: A long-term project in German nature reserves delivered a shock (Hallmann 2017, PLOS ONE):

- Flying insect biomass fell by more than 75% over about 27 years
- The decline appeared even inside protected areas, not just farmland
- It spanned the whole insect community, not one or two species

THE CAUSES: No single villain explains it. Researchers point to intensive agriculture and

pesticides, habitat loss, light pollution, and a changing climate acting together. Because insects sit at the base of food webs, their loss ripples upward — fewer insects means fewer insect-eating birds, and so on. It is a collapse measured not in dramatic extinctions of famous animals, but in absence: quieter nights, emptier skies, cleaner windshields. When the most important animals on Earth disappear so quietly that we mistake it for tidier driving, how do we learn to notice a loss that doesn't roar but simply fades? [fB, *WildLens Chronicles*, June 18]

A bat in the American desert lands on the ground, folds its wings, walks up to a scorpion, and eats it. The scorpion stings it repeatedly during the fight. The bat shows no reaction. Researchers at UC Riverside injected pallid bats with the venom of the Arizona bark scorpion, North America's most venomous scorpion species, at concentrations that

continued on page 10

In Case continued from page 9



would kill a mouse, and the bats behaved as if nothing had happened. **The pallid bat is immune to the most dangerous scorpion on the continent.**

Most bats hunt by echolocation, sending out ultrasonic pulses and reading the returns to locate flying insects in midair. The pallid bat does not do this. It belongs to a small group of species called gleaners, bats that hunt from surfaces rather than in flight. The pallid bat uses its enormous ears to listen for prey-generated sounds on the ground: the scratch of a cricket's leg, the rustle of a centipede through leaf litter, the click of a scorpion crossing hardpan. When it locates the sound, it drops out of the air,

lands beside the prey, and attacks on foot. It uses echolocation mostly for navigation and obstacle avoidance, not hunting. Its primary sensory tool for finding food is passive hearing so acute that it can pinpoint a scorpion walking across sand from flight altitude in total darkness.

The bat weighs between half an ounce and an ounce. It is roughly four inches long with a wingspan of fifteen inches and a blunt, pig-like snout. It is pale yellow-brown, built for blending into the desert substrates it hunts across. White Sands National Park researchers say a pallid bat can eat half its body weight in arthropods in a single night. Its diet

continued on page 11

In Case continued from page 10

includes crickets, centipedes, cicadas, beetles, small lizards, and mice. The scorpion is the signature prey; it hunts them on foot in the dark by listening for the sound of their legs moving across sand. A sting that sends a human to the emergency room and kills a mouse outright does not register in the pallid bat's nervous system. The bats do not detoxify the venom. They ignore it. The resistance operates at the level of the sensory neurons themselves, likely through altered sodium ion channels that the venom's toxins are designed to activate. The scorpion's weapon targets a lock that the bat's nervous system has changed.

A similar adaptation has been reported with the grasshopper mouse, the small desert rodent that eats bark scorpions and howls at the moon. The grasshopper mouse uses a comparable mechanism: a mutation in its sodium channels converts the scorpion's pain signal into an analgesic effect, essentially turning the venom into a painkiller. Two unrelated desert animals, a bat and a mouse, evolved the same answer to the same problem independently.

There is one more layer. Pallid bats visit cactus flowers. They are not doing it for the nectar, or at least not primarily; they are hunting insects that congregate around the blooms. But in the process of landing on the flowers and crawling across them to grab prey, they pick up pollen on their fur and carry it to the next flower. Bat Conservation International lists the pallid bat as a natural pollinator of several cactus species. An animal that spends its nights landing on the desert floor to eat scorpions that sting it without effect is also, by accident, keeping the cactus population alive.

In summary: The pallid bat does not echolocate to find its food. It listens. It does not catch insects in the air. It lands and walks. It does not avoid the most

venomous scorpion in North America. It eats them. It gets stung during every hunt and processes the venom as background noise. And when it flies between scorpion kills, it pollinates the desert. Nothing about this animal works the way a bat is supposed to work, and all of it works. [Hopp et al. (2017), *PLOS ONE*. *Bat Conservation International*. *White Sands National Park Service*. *Animal Diversity Web*, *University of Michigan*. *UC Riverside Department of Psychology*; fB, *TheLonelyCamp*, June 18, 2026.]

Population growth, agricultural irrigation, groundwater pumping, and changing precipitation patterns have increased pressure on Texas water supplies. The Edwards Aquifer, which feeds Comal and San Marcos springs and supports flows in the Guadalupe River system, has reached critically low levels during recent drought years.

Texas rivers, including the San Saba, Frio, Nueces, and portions of the Colorado and Guadalupe, have experienced severe low flows and intermittent drying during recent droughts.

Background from *The New Yorker*, 11/13/25: In 2019, Corpus Christi, Texas's eighth-largest city, moved forward with plans to build a desalination plant. The facility, which was expected to be completed by 2023, at a cost of a hundred and forty million dollars, would convert seawater into freshwater to be used by the area's many refineries and chemical plants. The former mayor called it "a pretty significant day in the life of our city." In anticipation of the plant's opening, the city committed to provide tens of millions of gallons of water per day to new industrial operations, including a plastics plant co-owned by ExxonMobil and the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation, a lithium refinery for Tesla batteries, and a "specialty chemicals" plant operated by Chemours. The facilities went into operation, but the desalination

continued on page 12

In Case continued from page 11

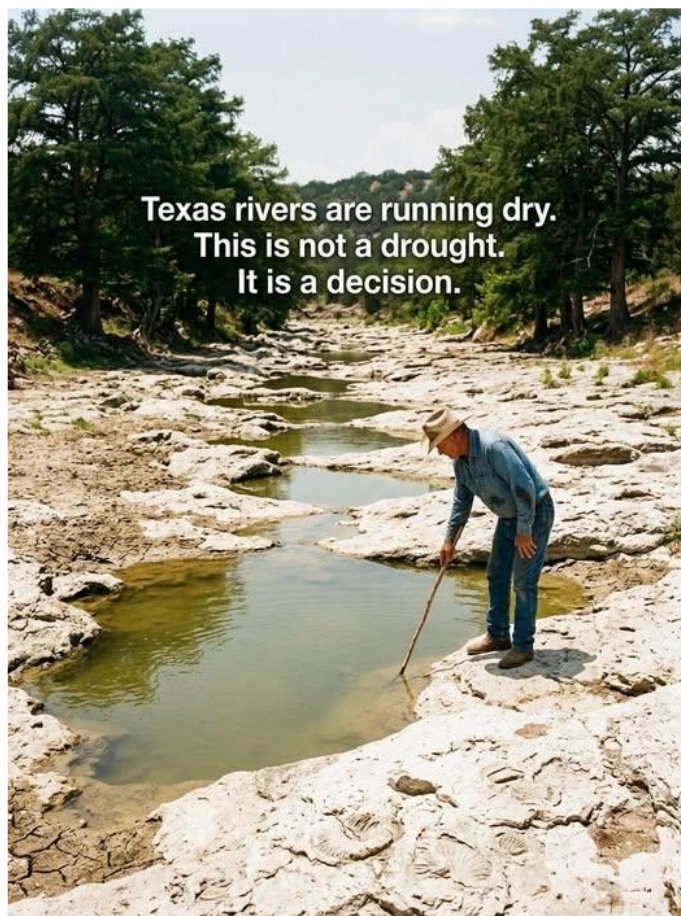
plant stalled out in the planning process, and its projected costs ballooned to more than a billion dollars. In the meantime, the city suffered through a multiyear drought, and local reservoirs reached alarmingly low levels. Residents were prohibited from watering their lawns or hosing down their cars; industrial operations, largely exempt from drought restrictions, kept drawing the water they had been promised. Officials predicted that Corpus Christi might enter an official water emergency—triggered when water demand is projected to exceed supply within six months—by the end of 2026.

Critics argue that Texas's long-standing Rule of Capture [property owners in Texas can't prevent someone next door with a bigger pump and a deeper well from sucking groundwater from underneath their property], and fragmented water management system can make it difficult to protect springs and river flows, creating tension between private water rights and the long-term health of Texas rivers. But as industrial operations move to the state, residents find that their drinking water has been promised to companies. Across the state, residents are being confronted with the alarming reality of limited water supplies. According to the state government's 2022 Texas Water Plan, by 2070 the population is projected to increase by more than 70% as water supplies decline by nearly 18%. State senator Charles Perry from Lubbock and the legislature's leading water expert, believes this is an understatement.

Meanwhile, in a case of painful irony the likes of which would be hard to match, billionaire hedge-fund manager Kyle Bass has applied for permits that would allow him to drill dozens of high-capacity wells on his East Texas ranch. The idea was to pull up to nearly 49,000 acre-feet of water from the

wettest part of the state and sell it to the fast-growing Dallas suburbs, a practice of what he calls "conservation equity management"—that is, increasing property values through environmental stewardship. Residents at the area were overwhelmingly skeptical and the project has been halted while it is being debated in court.

Future water wars could bring a scenario of agriculture pitted against industry pitted against municipalities; the wetter parts of the states fighting to protect "their" water from thirsty and fast-growing cities. And as resources continue to dwindle, experts worry that if water conservation comes to be seen as partisan, taking meaningful collective action will be even more challenging. Stay tuned.



Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



Facial recognition software

It's a moth!

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

Good Looks Not the Whole Story



Yes, it's all bugs all the time, this month anyway. So here's the larval stage of an elm sawfly. It will become a handsome adult, a wasp that doesn't sting. Sadly, they can do terrible damage to elm trees and are regarded as garden pests.



Rock rose.

Advanced Nature Photography



Odd name, but some great wings, if you can only get a look at them. This Betrothed underwing just sat, all brown and mottled, looking a lot like pretty complicated tree bark. Then it remembered it was late for something important and had to leave in a hurry.

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



Question Corner Professor J. Lewis Corner

Q: Look, I was yelling at the goons from Code Enforcement the other day when they said, “If we can handle Corner, we’re more than a match for a nothing native plant nerd like you. You got a real bad gutter problem, pal, and right now we’re thinking deportation to a nice little country where they can’t afford gutters.” Then they whapped me with your file and told me to go get my clippers and clean up my act — and my gutter. Nothing overhanging. Period. What do you think?

A. Admit nothing. Bleed on their carpet. Smile and nod through your bruises. All that confuses them. Maybe tell ’em that plant’s a volunteer, and who are you to interfere with the natural world? Or ignore them, they’ll get distracted and forget you. 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.





Arlington, TX
1660 W. Randol Mill Rd.
(817) 275-1000

Shop Online for Home Delivery or Store Pickup
mywbu.com/arlintonx



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 76103
Karen Foley 817-535-1152

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John DYCUS

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



Law Office of
SHANE GOETZ

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

Hairy sunflower wants a lot of space.

My Nature Notebook

EEK! A SNAKE!

So the Creepy Old Guy was picking up a snake and Brainiac and me said ooh a snake! Can we hold it? And he said ok, but only because I'm right here and I know it's a



Western rat snake. Michael Smith photo.

harmless rat snake. You take it but be very gentle while I talk to those people from the radio. It just happens that they want to know about snake safety. Go ahead and carefully show them that rat snake. Then this lady said OH MY SKIN IS CRAWLING! And Brainiac gave her a look and said Are you going to talk like that on the radio? Didn't you know that your odds of being bitten by a venomous snake in the US are 1 in 42,000? And your chance of dying is 1 in 50 million? Want to be safe? Don't be a guy who is messing with a snake. Grownups! Phooey!

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.**

Molly Hollar Wildscape Update **Marian Hiler**

In addition to the usual ongoing weeding, volunteers did some seasonal pruning plus transplanted grasses and sedges to enhance a couple of special spots.

The areas where the memorial stone benches were placed last year to honor Molly Hollar and her son Lee needed more greenery to set them off. So, Cherokee sedge was transplanted from along the sidewalk near the pavilion and placed near the recently planted columbines.

continued on page 18



Left above, Lesley Pinkard and Cindy Underwood dig up sedge destined for Molly's stone bench. Ann Knudsen photo.

Left below, Cindy Underwood, Johanna Posey, and Thomas Bates plant Cherokee sedge around Molly's bench. Ann Knudsen photo. Below, Planting completed. Marian Hiler photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 17, continued on page 19

Another area benefiting from on-site materials was a location on the disc golf 18th hole fairway edge just down from the little blue stem area planted last month. Canada wild rye was moved here and should fill in nicely in no time. *Next page*, After giving us a great show this spring, the autumn sage and Mealyblue sage were cut back by a third to encourage fresh new growth. Maximilian sunflower and fall aster were also trimmed to make them bushier and less leggy when it comes their time to bloom.



Above left, Joe Martinez, Shayna Turbovsky, and Jim Domke install Canada wild rye next to the disc golf fairway. Marian Hiler photo. *Right*, More frogfruit for the eroding pathway. *From left*, Josh Parkerson, Josephine Keeney, and Morgan Chivers. Marian Hiler photo. *Below*, Brome weed removal by Christine Brinson, Marian Hiler, and Carol Marcotte. Ann Knudsen photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 18, continued on page 20



Left above, Chris Raney and Ann Knudsen weed the west garden. Marian Hiler photo. *Left middle*, Christine Brinson trims the fall aster. Ann Knudsen photo. *Left below*, Cindy Underwood and Lynn Chen cut back Maximillan sunflower. Marian Hiler photo. *Below*, Sezar Fakhimi, front, and Joe Martinez edge around the Lonesome Oak area. A never-ending battle to keep the Bermuda grass at bay. Marian Hiler photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 19, continued on page 21

First Saturday mini-classes

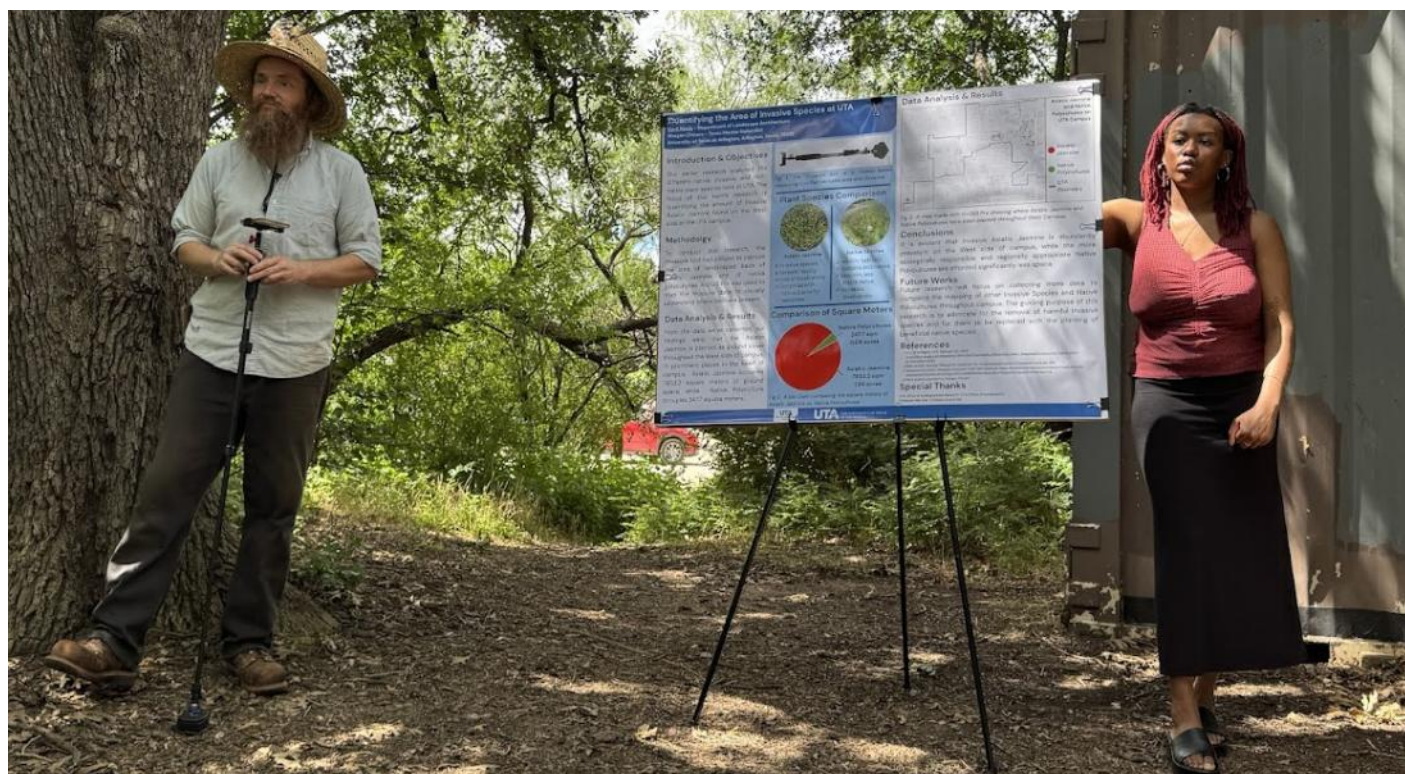
At the June 6 mini-class, Morgan Chivers and Kayli Nauls talked about the research project “Understanding and Addressing Invasive Species at UTA.” Morgan is a Master Naturalist and Kayli is an undergraduate student at UTA in her second year of the Sustainable Urban Design program.

“This research project investigates the presence and impact of invasive plant species across the UTA campus,” Morgan said. “The study identifies where invasive species reside on campus, examines their environmental effects, and explores ecoregionally native alternatives that could serve as more sustainable substitutes... The guiding purpose of this research is to advocate for the removal of harmful invasive species, and for them to be replaced with the planting of beneficial native species.”

There will not be a first Saturday workday or mini-class on **July 4** due to the Independence Day holiday.

On **August 1**, Texas Master Naturalist and Native Plant Society representative Sandy Fountain will be talking 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. Note: This mini-class was originally scheduled for the March mini-class and kept getting pushed out.

Mini-classes are held in the compost area and begin about 10:30 as the workday volunteers put away the day’s tools.



Morgan Chivers and Kayli Nauls relate how data was collected to map invasives and native species on the UTA campus. Marian Hiler photo.

Wildscape Update continued from page 20, continued on page 22



Above, Western Honey Bee on buttonbush. Below left, Common Buckeye. Right, Hibiscus Turret Bee. Ann Knudsen photos.



Wildscape Update continued from page 21, continued on page 23



Clockwise from lower left, Purple sage. Ann Knudsen photo. Aztec Spur-throated Grasshopper. Lynn Chen photo. Interesting seed heads of prairie parsley. Marian Hiler photo. This Western rat snake was just passing through. Marian Hiler photo.



Wildscape Update continued from page 22

Wildscape Volunteer Opportunities

Summer Hours 8 - 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



Right, Butterfly garden. Marian Hiler photo. Below, Patsy Miller keeps the berm looking great. Ann Knudsen photo.



Social Media? Yup.

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



What do you want to talk about today?

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve

Coming up Annabelle Corboy

Saturday evening, September 12

Bats of the Area and How to Find Them

It's not too early to mark your calendar for this special event at SCNP. Local bat enthusiasts Ellen Ravkind and Anne Alderfer, along with bat expert Kate Rugroden from the Bat World Sanctuary, will provide our program at the preserve. Kate will talk about the bats in this area and the role the sanctuary plays in education and rehabilitation. Ellen and Anne will demonstrate the use of the echolocation devices from Wildlife Acoustics (Echo Meter Touch 2).

continued on page 26



Hoary bat. This widespread insect eater roosts in trees where it blends in with dead leaves and migrates through our area every year.

SCNP continued from page 25**Online Series** Annabelle Corboy**The Wild Lives of Texas' Reptiles & Amphibians****Authored and presented by Michael Smith****[Click here](#) to attend the Zoom talks any time.**

Friends of SCNP has co-sponsored, along with the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists, a series of Zoom talks about the amphibians and reptiles in our part of the state. In five online presentations, Michael Smith offers photos and details about the lives of frogs and toads, salamanders, turtles, the American alligator, lizards, and snakes.

Much of the discussion is about how they live: where they are found, what they eat, how they defend themselves, and other issues. There are photos of many of the species, including all of our venomous snakes, with more resources about how to identify what you see.



Western diamondback rattlesnake. Michael Smith photo.

At Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve you might see several turtle species, a couple of kinds of lizards, a few frogs and toads, and only a handful of snake species (none of them venomous).

The idea behind the talks is to give local naturalists a better understanding of these animals wherever they may be out walking, since other refuges and preserves in the area can include a broader range of species including several venomous snakes and the American alligator.

This series of five ZOOM talks was completed on June 25, and all five of the talks are available on our [YouTube channel](#).

continued on page 27

SCNP continued from page 26, continued on page 28**More Trail Upgrades** Annabelle Corboy

The reworking of the Blue Trail in the North Prairie began this April with our partners at South-Point Constructors addressing serious erosion issues by creating a serpentine path from what was once the old ranch road. Each swing of the new trail back and forth exposed “pockets” to reseed and new trail that needs to be hardened. Workdays have been held in late May and June, alternating between reseeding the new prairie pockets — 8 out of 17 now complete — and hardening the new trail by applying dg (decomposed granite), provided by Arlington Parks, Recreation, & Culture Department. Thanks to leaders Rudy Arnold and Jim Frisinger and to volunteers Jan Miller, Josh Parkerson, Glenn Butler, Kim Courtney, Jim Domke, Jim Fuguay, and Annabelle Corboy.



Above, June 20 workday with Josh Parkerson, Rudy Arnold, Jan Miller, Jim Domke, and Glenn Butler. Jim Domke photo.

Left, May 29 workday. Annabelle Corboy photo.

SCNP continued from page 27, continued on page 29**SCNP iNaturalist Observations — May 2026** Annabelle Corboy

For May: 215 Observations; 130 Species; 15 Observers.

SCNP totals at the end of May:

27,280 Observations / 2,245 Species / 2,175 Identifiers / 358 Observers

The four species below were recorded for the first time at SCNP during May.



From left, *Orsilochides guttata* — Brentano, Sad Ground Crab Spider (*Xysticus funestus*) — sambiology



From left, *Delochilocoris illuminatus* — sambiology. Only 47 Observations globally in iNat.
Beautiful Soapberry Borer (*Agrilus scitulus*) — summervillennature. Only 46 Observations globally in iNat

SCNP continued from page 28**SCNP iNaturalist Observations — April 2026** Annabelle Corboy

From left, *Stichopogon colei* — jocobirder. Mexican Long-nosed Armadillo (*Dasypus mexicanus*) — Summervillenature. Christmas Cholla (*Cylindropuntia leptocaulis*) — drawntoscales. It's blooming!



From left, Standing Cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*) — cwebb41. “’;;’

Blackland Prairie Preserve

Guy Random



*All drenched and no sun,
Only just a month ago
That was sort of true.
But not now, oh, no.
It's time for dust on cracked dirt
And plants that don't care.*



ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Membership Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

First-year member \$10

Individual \$15

Family \$25

Supporting \$40

Sponsor \$100

Lifetime Individual \$250

Other \$ _____

New Member ☐

Renewing member ☐

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216. Or pay via PayPal, Venmo, 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

No July Zoom Meeting



See you in August