

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POSTOAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 6

JUNE 2011

**Note:
Special meeting place.
See below.**

www.arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

June Meeting

**River Legacy:
An Old – and New – Friend**

**Alma Pohler,
Volunteer Coordinator
River Legacy Foundation**

**Wednesday, June 8, 7 pm
River Legacy Living Science Center
703 NW Green Oaks Boulevard
(North end of Cooper Street)**



**Come learn about River Legacy's
environmental programs and get the
latest on what's new while enjoying
their beautiful building.**

No raffle this month

Bits & Pieces

A Tail of Two Mice

So it's like this: In our prairie and brushy places we've got the deer mouse (right). But in the woods, it's the nearly identical white-footed mouse, and it's the usual rodent story for both: run around all night, make about 40 babies a year, and get eaten by everything bigger than you.



Today's Inspirational Moment



A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it does otherwise.

Aldo Leopold,
from *A Sand County Almanac*

Annual Flower Show

There's a big sandy spot at Southwest Nature Preserve with scattered yuccas. One of those smart guys on a plant walk said they were Glen Rose yuccas, and that means Arlington has a small population of our only endemic plant. This beauty only occurs in about five counties around here, so we're lucky to have it.



Legislature does it again



From the June 5 Star-Telegram: One of Rep. Lon Burnam's disappointments in the regular session is the defeat of bills to strengthen regulation of the oil and gas industries. "The air Texans breathe will not get any cleaner and it will be more difficult to challenge a polluter in court."

From the President Jo Ann Duman

It's a glass half-full, glass half-empty time of year, isn't it? The exuberance of spring has settled into the long, green stretch of summer. For all the disappointing news coming out of Austin (where the sunset review of our supposed-to-be environmental protection agencies seems to have resulted in more pro-polluter laws), the foundation of community in Arlington continues to grow stronger as it has for years without end.

Arlington's fire chief has publicly admitted that gas wells and collection operations are industrial activities that need better response from our emergency workers when residents call 911 to report problems resulting in uncontrolled emissions. Too bad the city didn't zone these industries out of residential areas to begin with, as some other cities did, but who could resist all that money for the sake of protecting public health?



Adder's tongue at SW Nature Preserve.
Photo by Wesley Miller.

Best to take the long view if we are to keep our sanity. The Wildscape volunteers have produced a magical place to walk and wonder at nature. A small, dedicated group of creative ACC members are at work on a float for the 4th of July parade. Be sure to come to the parade and walk along, or stake out your seat on the route and cheer them on. There are parks to visit, trails to clean up, birds to watch, and children to play with all summer long.

The Farmers Market has more to offer every week. New efforts like the Community Gardens at UTA and the enthusiasm of bicyclists for a more livable, ride-able city are creating the Arlington of the future. In 20 years people will still be coming together for summer activity in Arlington and surrounding areas. Enjoy the season.

THE POST OAK

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

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New York Avenue Blackland Prairie Park Jan Miller Photos by Wesley Miller



3rd Saturdays at NYABP

May's workday was soggy and windy, thanks to a soaking storm that blew through the day before. Volunteers took advantage of the wet soil to pull and bag lots of invasive Johnson grass plus a small yellow-flowered invasive spreading along the New York Avenue right-of-way. We were entertained by songs of summer prairie birds (dickcissels, kingbirds, a painted bunting), plus a kestrel and a fly-over by a pair of Swainson's hawks on their way north. Thanks to volunteers Hester Schwarzer, Susan White, John Darling, and Wes Miller.

Workdays will continue through the summer, but considering the season, will begin at 8 am and end earlier, around 10 or 11 am, depending on the heat. Cutting anything but very small trees or brush will wait until cooler temperatures this fall. Instead, we'll concentrate on prairie boundaries where invasives are most often found and the public's first impression is made, cutting back invasives like Johnson grass. Starting this month, signs will be posted the week before to announce the workday to the neighborhood.

Bring gloves and clippers if you have them. Please wear sturdy soled shoes or boots and long pants, and don't forget the sunscreen and water (refills provided). Bug spray too; it's chigger season and ticks are also possible. An RSVP is appreciated (in case of inclement weather, etc.) but not required:

prairie@arlingtonconservationcouncil.org.

For map and directions: Search Mapquest or Google maps for 4907 New York Avenue, Arlington, TX 76018.

Prairie Stewards
Restoration Workday
Saturday, June 18, 2011
8 am – 11 am
Be there!

Wildscape Update **John Dycus** Photos by **Diana Kunde**



The big wildscape news for May was the arrival Saturday, May 14, of more than 40 high school volunteers from the HOBY youth leadership program, and boy, did they get

after it! They dug two dozen large holes for trees and shrubs and mulched most of the trails. They were fantastic to work with.

Actor Hugh O’Brian, known for his role as Wyatt Earp on television, started HOBY 53 years ago. The wildscape workers were part of a larger group attending a seminar at TCU that weekend. They came from all over the state.

A young woman from flat, tree-deprived West Texas told Norma Martinez, one of the adult supervisors, that she’d never been in a forest like the one at the wildscape. Forest! She asked if she could work beside Norma in the woods, and Norma made sure that happened.

The students’ efforts were much appreciated by the regular wildscape volunteers, who, the following Wednesday, planted American beautyberry, roughleaf dogwood, Eve’s necklace, Texas mountain laurel, Carolina buckthorn and other understory trees and shrubs in each and every freshly dug hole.

Wildscape namesake Molly Hollar has this idea that shrubs planted on the inner borders of flowerbeds may prevent people

from trampling on the flowers to get where they want to go. It’s worth a try.

In other news, Josephine Keeney led volunteers around the wildscape, identifying plants. She knows them all. The walk with Josephine was the mini-course for the month.

Diana Kunde asked Josephine which of the plants she particularly favors, and she quickly answered the ones on the berm, or low-water area — desert willow, red yucca, blackfoot daisy. “And we just noticed some Drummond’s aster,” she said, pointing to a small stand of aster that’s new to the wildscape (and not on the berm).

Ask Josephine to i.d. some plants for you sometime. It’s a thing she likes to do at which she is very, very good.



BRIT Dedication May 21

On May 21, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas dedicated its new campus, displaying a grand mixture of features sure to appeal to every ACC member. The campus isn't just filled with native plants; it's also loaded with other sustainable features. Get all the details at www.BRIT.org.



Spring at Southwest Nature Preserve



Thanks to Our Last Speaker

Last month Darryl Westbrook, Arlington Water Utilities Assistant Director for Business Services, spoke to us about the city's reclaimed water project. It was a perfect topic for us (water conservation) presented by a superior speaker, and the audience had a hard time letting him leave. Darryl's knowledge of this fascinating subject was exceeded only by his tolerance for our many questions.

Arlington Conservation Council Membership Application

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

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How did you hear about us? _____

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Note: If you cannot pay, please let any board member know.

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Don't Forget!

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Alma Pohler
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at the River Legacy
Living Science Center



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