

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POSTOAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2012

www.arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

**February Meeting
Arlington Recycling Update**

**Lorrie Anderle,
Arlington Recycling Coordinator**

**Wednesday, February 8, 7 pm
Fielder Museum
1616 W. Abram St
(corner of Fielder and Abram)**



Lorrie Anderle will answer all our recycling questions, and we can expect the latest information on the pilot program for rolling recycling carts. Don't miss it!

Bring something for the raffle.

Bits & Pieces

Not just another pretty face

The biggest fish in the Trinity River must be the Alligator gar. With a length of 8 to 10 feet and weighing at least 200 pounds at maturity, this marvelous creature can survive by gulping air when oxygen levels crash in the summer heat.



Today's Inspirational Moment



Filthy water cannot be washed.
West African Proverb

At least it's organic

It sounds revolting: pig blood from a Dallas packing plant oozing into the Trinity the other day. But we don't make a fuss about all the nasty manmade chemicals that quietly pollute the river every day, especially after a rain. Think gasoline, oil, pesticides, and who knows what else.



Yet another Sperry spasm



But at least Neil Sperry didn't trash native plants in his Jan 28 *Star-Telegram* column in which he advises us to consider soils, rainfall, climate and growing season. What a perfect lead-in for native plants! But no, not a word on their behalf (again).

From the President Jo Ann Duman

My neighbors and I don't live in premium residences, and that's why the Arlington City Council permitted gas well drilling by our homes. At least that's what Mayor Cluck revealed when he stated the reason for denying a gas drilling permit at Bowen Road near the future Bardin Road extension: "These are premium residences." Those of you living near UTA who were disbelieved when you reported health impacts from the drilling on the campus, now you know you also are not "premium" residents of Arlington. Air quality studies in Fort Worth and Dish revealed that toxic chemicals producing effects that match your symptoms are emitted by drilling operations, but our city council decided months ago that there would be no air testing in Arlington because it would cost too much. Maybe if the complaints had come from "pre-

mium" residents they would have acted differently.

While it is good to have the city council finally recognize that all the drilling sites they have already allowed are making Arlington an undesirable place to live, it makes me very angry to learn that the mayor thinks only residents with homes worth more than mine are worth protecting. School children, of course, don't count at all because drill sites have been permitted within less than 200 feet of an elementary school, but since that is a Mansfield ISD school, those kids don't matter either.

What a downer of a way that January 24 council session was to end the first month of the New Year. Far more uplifting and fun was the January 14 potluck brunch we had at the Montessori Academy. Thank you to all who attended

and brought more than enough great food for the enjoyment of everyone. Members of the Executive Board for 2012 were elected. Attendees also completed a survey form to help board members plan for activities for the rest of the year. For those unable to make the brunch, we will have forms at the regular meeting on February 8 and will ask you to complete them so we have your ideas, too. Let's get ready for spring and plan to have more fun.

One other thing: We need guest columns and articles for the *Post Oak*. If you have a topic you'd like to share with the rest of us, please take a stab at writing it up. We have some good editors who can help turn your words into great reading for everyone, but they have to have the basic work done by you as a start. Please send us something by March 15 in time for the next issue.

THE POST OAK

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

John Darling, Editor
1316 S. Pecan St., Arlington TX 76010
817-274-1077
1darling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors
Jo Ann Duman, Danny Kocurek,
Jan Miller, Roy Miliner, Wesley Miller,
Dick Schoech

Proofreaders Grace Darling,
Marian Hiler

The *Post Oak* will not knowingly accept sponsors who are deceptive, misleading, or expressly incompatible with our mission. The *Post Oak* does not endorse, advocate, or guarantee any offer, viewpoint, or representation made by its sponsors.

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John D Y C U S

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

r redenta's
garden shops
landscape design

arlington dallas landscape
817.451.2149 214.823.9421 817.469.6786

www.redentas.com

"an experience in gardening the way it was meant to be"

Herb 'n Health

Natural Foods Market & Herb Shoppe

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

LAW OFFICE OF
SHANE GOETZ

1304 WEST ABRAM STREET ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013
SHANEGOETZ@SBCGLOBAL.NET LOCAL: 817-274-2905 METRO: 817-265-2902 FACSIMILE: 817-861-8909

ARBOR TREE SERVICE INC
817-460-TREE
DAN HILER
Pruning Removal Free Bids
2600 Clover Ln Arlington, TX 76015

N TREI NORTH TEXAS RENEWABLE ENERGY

SINCE 1994 NORTH TEXAS OLDEST
SOLAR PV DESIGN & INSTALLATION SPECIALIST

Jim Duncan
ntrei@tsc.com.net • 817.917.0527
www.ntrei.com
NABCEP PV # 031310-57 • TECL 27398

Thanks A.C.C. for working to conserve Arlington's natural resources.

m|m|a
mycoskie + mcinnis + associates
civil engineering surveying landscape architecture planning
www.mateks.com
817-465-9271

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



February at NYABP is a 2-for-1 activity!

We'll survey the preserve, then at 10 am the workday will start.

Starting at 9 am, the first-ever Great Backyard Bird Count* at

NYABP will be held. Because prairie habitat is so rare, many of the birds that depend on it are also scarce, and the data we get may be especially interesting. Bring binoculars if you have them; all ages and experience levels are welcome.

Then from 10 am to 1 pm we'll have our workday. Volunteers needed! APRD employees will be cutting brush and small trees, then applying herbicide. Volunteers are needed to remove the brush as it's cut. There's always an opportunity to pick up litter too.

Please RSVP: You are essential! We need enough volunteers to assist APRD employees who will be operating the chain saws and applying herbicide.

Please reply to: prairie@arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

Bring your handsaws, loppers and gloves and wear thick-soled boots/shoes and long pants.

***15th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count**

This annual citizen science event provides valuable winter bird count data from across the country. Join bird watchers of all ages, counting birds from the comfort of home or at a location of your choice, for as little as 15 minutes or as long as you'd like.

For more information, see www.birdsource.org/gbbc

Here are the Backyard Bird Counts in Arlington:

River Legacy Living Science Center

703 NW Green Oaks Blvd
10 am – 2 pm

Participate in the GBBC plus fun family activities such as building nesting bags, face painting, owl pellet dissection, and family bird walks.

Contact: misty@riverlegacy.org

OS Gray Natural Area

Saturday, February 18
10 – noon

New York Ave Blackland Prairie

Saturday, February 18
9 am – 10 am

Southwest Nature Preserve

Sunday, February 19
9 am – noon

Meet at the northwest gate on Bowman Springs Road. Classic crosstimers woodlands, grasslands and ponds make this an interesting place to count birds. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

**New York Avenue
Blackland Prairie Park
3rd Saturday workday
Saturday,
February 18, 2012
10 am - 1 pm Workday
9 am Great Backyard Bird
Count**



Around Town John Darling



Things have taken a funny turn since the last board meeting. After fiddling with 118 *Post Oaks*, I had decided to quit after next April's issue. But no. Turns out that Grace Darling was the

overwhelming choice for president, and her first act was to reject the notion of a retiring editor. Her second act was to produce a pile of Audubon and Sierra Club magazines and point out that both had columns by their editors. (She lied about Sierra — I just checked. Is it possible that you can't trust politicians?)

So here I am again, sort of ready to muse about the life of a half-baked tree hugger in Arlington. Why me, and not the incoming president? The answer's simple: She doesn't muse, she proclaims.

Well, I too have something to proclaim: I am grateful to Jo Ann Duman for her time as president. Despite the demands of her job and other obligations, she has been a superior leader, wonderfully informed, committed, and even good at controlling board meetings. Thanks again, Jo Ann.

Okay, musing: The other day your new president came home outraged by the cutting of three old cottonwoods near Park Row and Johnson Creek. She learned that a church across the street owns the land and apparently considered them dead and/or hazardous. Sure, cottonwoods age fast and I will admit that they were never part of a healthy



habitat, just three big trees surrounded by grass and other weeds. On the other hand, they weren't hurting anybody. To judge from the severed trunks, they were far from dead. And even if they were a little worn in spots, what about the woodpeckers that crave dead and dying wood? This is what they get for not voting.



Those cottonwoods were about a yard wide at the base; they must have been doing their share of air cleaning, pollutant catching, and floodwater slowing.

So what's next? It took me back to March 17, 2006, when I photographed more arboreal carnage. A church farther east on Park Row had cut and bulldozed a number of oaks and pecans. I didn't understand until a city staffer told me how it works: Somebody buys a piece of land, and while it's still zoned residential, they can cut everything down without penalty. They wait a while, get the cleared land rezoned, then do whatever they had in mind without compensating the city (or the earth) for the lost trees.

It's taken 6 years, but now I see it: a nice new parking lot unencumbered by pesky trees.



Above, making the world safe for parking lots along Park Row on March 17, 2006. Below, the tidy result.



From the Incoming President

The 2012 officers are:
 Grace Darling, President
 Danny Kocurek, Vice President
 Marian Hiler, Treasurer
 Marianne Hermann, Secretary
 Dick Schoech, Secretary (Alternate)
 Thanks to Jo Ann for her two years of outstanding service, to Roy Miliner for chairing the Nominating Committee, and to the entire 2011 board for their work on behalf of the organization.

Molly Hollar Birthday Celebration/Privet Pull

Please join us Saturday, February 11, at O. S. Gray Natural Area for a celebration of Molly's Birthday. We will give her her favorite gift, a pile of privet. You don't have to stay the whole time, or even pull privet, but we will be working from 9 am to noon. Lunch and cake will follow at Mijo's. Hope to see you there.

Date: February 11th

Time: 9 – 12

What to bring: gloves, long pants and good wishes

Annual Brunch & Business Meeting



Another year, another fine brunch kindly hosted by the Montessori Academy of Arlington. Outgoing President Jo Ann Duman reviewed the year, we elected the next board, and we talked and ate a lot.



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 _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

First-year member \$10.00

Individual \$15.00

Family \$25.00

Supporting \$40.00

Sponsor \$100.00

Lifetime individual \$250.00

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. Contributions and dues are not tax-deductible. Note: If you cannot pay, please let any board member know. The only available newsletter format is electronic, and it can be obtained via email and the Web site.

President Grace Darling
274-1077 darlingg@sbcglobal.net
Vice President Danny Kocurek
Treasurer Marian Hiler 277-3998
mernhome@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Marianne Herrmann
Editor John Darling 274-1077
1darling@sbcglobal.net

Board Members
Jo Ann Duman
John Dycus
Frank Keeney
Jan Miller
Roy Milner
Callie Mitchell
Ed Pischetta
Dick Schoech

THE POST OAK
Arlington Conservation Council
PO Box 216
Arlington TX 76004-0216

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't Forget!

Wednesday, February 8
7:00 pm

Lorrie Anderle
Arlington
Recycling Update



Printed on recycled paper