

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4

**APRIL
2006**

**Second Litter Cleanup at
Southwest Nature Preserve**

Didn't see enough trash at the Litter Challenge? Here's another chance, but this time it will take place in one of Arlington's most beautiful places—and you'll have time to get a good look at it. Bring gloves, wear long pants and boots, carry a water bottle, and plan to be captivated by this marvellous place.

**Saturday, April 8
8:00 am - noon**

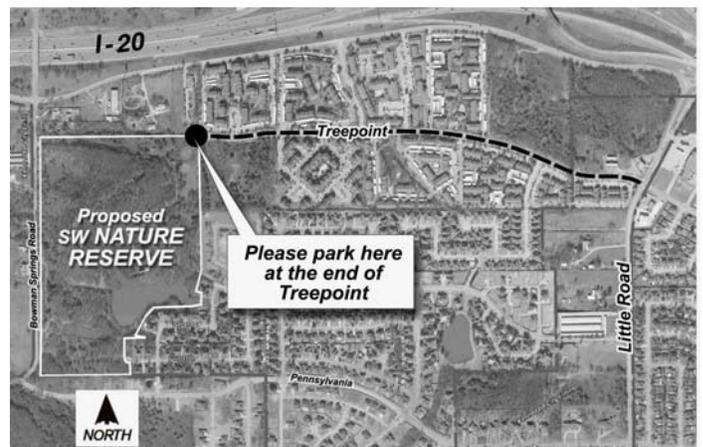


For more
information
call Parks &
Recreation
at 817-
459-5492

April Meeting

- TOPIC:** Town Center in Arlington
- SPEAKER:** Yaromir Steiner, CEO of Steiner + Associates, development and property management firm
- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 pm
- WHERE:** First United Methodist Church, 313 N Center at Division (enter through north door)
- NOTE:** The Town Center project will affect the future of Arlington and Johnson Creek. Come learn the details.

**Bring Something
for the Raffle!**



From the President Wayne Halliburton

April is always one of the most active months for ACC, and this April is no exception. Well before this newsletter reaches you, the Arlington Litter Challenge will have taken place (I know, I know, it took place in late March. But I didn't want to miss the chance to mention this again, as it is one of the best ways we show our concern for the environment in a tangible way). Congratulations, and thanks to all the participants. If you missed this opportunity or want another, the Southwest Nature Preserve invitational cleanup is on April 8, 2006, from 8:00 am till noon. See the Yahoo group for more details. Also on April 8, the 2006 North American Bird Watch Open takes place at Tierra Verde Golf Club from 6:00 am - 11:00 am. Signup information is on the next page.

April 12 is ACC's regular monthly meeting, and we will be hosting Yaromir Steiner. If you missed him at last month's SWAT meeting, he will present his plans for the Arlington Town Center. His presentation may be slightly updated from what was presented to SWAT, as more details should be in place. Come with your questions and concerns.

UTA is again combining Earth Day and Health Fair festivities into Celebrating People and Planet, a new and improved event happening in the University Center Mall from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm on April 19. While we are on the subject of UTA, it recently partnered with the City of Arlington to start a pilot program on campus-wide composting. Thanks to a grant from the North Central Council of Governments, UTA will be designated as a "Zero Green Waste Campus." Congratulations to Arlington Recycling Coordinator Lorrie Anderle and UTA's Becky Valentich, the talented grant writers who will make UTA a greener place to live and learn.

April 22 is Earth Day, and you can celebrate by helping at the Wimbish Elementary Work Day, 9:00 am till noon.

April 28 is the 10th anniversary of the Hill Elementary Wildscape, and they will mark it with a celebration in the

morning at the courtyard. Watch the Yahoo group for more details on both schools' activities.

April 29 is the ACC Wildscape Workshop from 9:00 am - noon at the Montessori Academy, 3428 Arkansas Lane. The guest speakers are Rosa Finsley and John Davis, and this should be a highly informative morning. Registration and more information are in this newsletter and on our Web site. In the afternoon the volunteers of the Molly Hollar Wildscape will hold a native plant sale from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm.

Combine these activities with a few of your own (maybe some time to work on your garden) and the regularly scheduled workdays at the Wildscape, the Blackland Prairie, and the Arlington Community Gardens, and you have a great kickoff to spring. See you out there!

THE POST OAK

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Direct all newsletter correspondence to:

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

Contributors

Julia Burgen, John Dycus, Wayne Halliburton, Molly Hollar

Proofreader Grace Darling

Mailing Specialists Peg and Tom Kennedy

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Joanne Stewart
 Voice Mail.....(817) 654-8424
 Office.....(817) 654-3737
 Fax.....(817) 654-1888
 Email.....joanne-stewart@comcast.net


New York Avenue Blackland Prairie

We don't have a date for the next prairie workday yet, so keep an eye out for Jan Miller's next announcement. Meanwhile, here's a photo of happy prairie workers from the March 11 workday with their latest load of trash.



Saturdays in the Soil at Wimbish Elementary

Join volunteers at the garden on April 22 from 9:00 -noon to help this worthy cause. Here's what teacher Carrie Donovan has to say: "My fourth grade students celebrated Texas Independence by planting lettuce, spinach, radishes, and tomatoes in our Salad Garden. Our next workdays are April 22 and May 13. We're located near the corner of Fielder and Randol Mill, near the playground along 1601 Wright Street. Interested people may contact me at carriedonovan@sbcglobal.net or at 817-274-3093."

Go Birdwatching at Tierra Verde Golf Club

Even if you're not an accomplished birdwatcher, you'll enjoy the 2006 North American Bird Watch Open at Tierra Verde Golf Club on Saturday, April 8 from 6:00 am - 11:00 am. It's a nature walk led by staff and local bird enthusiasts to observe and catalog our birds. Wear comfortable clothing and bring field guides, binoculars, cameras, and notepads to record information that will help us update our wildlife inventory. Bring your own refreshments or have lunch at the restaurant following the event. Please email Mark Claburn at claburnm@ci.arlington.tx.us, or call 817-548-5060 to let him know you'll be there.

Don't Miss This Parks Board Meeting

The Arlington Parks Board will meet at 6:30 pm Monday, April 10, 2006, and several items that should be on the agenda may interest ACC members: Gordon Robertson will discuss a proposed development to be built just north of the Blackland Prairie site, and Mark O'Leary should be on hand with the latest plans for Johnson Creek.

Community Garden Dedicated

On March 11, Community Gardens of Arlington members, parishoners at St Matthew Catholic Church, and ACC members witnessed the dedication of the garden on the church grounds. This was a milestone for CGA President Stephen Smith (below left) and all those who have worked toward this worthy goal.



Electronic Post Oaks?

Help ACC save money and trees by having your newsletters delivered by email. Contact John Darling (1darling@sbcglobal.net), and your ACC newsletter will be sent to your email box fresh each month, before the paper copies are delivered by snail mail.

COYOTES

How would my father
Justify to me
The dead brown husks
Of killed coyotes
Strung upon the fences
Down the long road to Camargo?
I'd spied their kin
Loping lean and shrewd
Through the bunchgrass
At dusk or dawn
And could not picture
Trails without them
On the shaggy prairies.
But fools, and friends of fools,
Void of contrition,
Still post these rotting markers —
To celebrate stupidity
And ignorance I guess.
Luckily, coyotes, unlike us,
Have learned from their mistakes
And may be here
Sniffing the fragrant breezes
When we have pawned
Our vagrant way
Into perdition.

(c)2005 John I. Blair

Wildscape Update John Dycus



Want to cut your water bill and landscape maintenance by 75 percent? Experts say scaling back a water-guzzling lawn will make it happen, since St. Augustine needs four

times more water than Texas groundcovers do. Replacing some of the grass with native plants produces a shade-loving, vibrant mix that's drought resistant and requires little (maybe no) mowing. Instead of never-changing St. Augustine (except when it turns brown), periods of color will begin in early spring and continue into summer, and everything stays green through the winter.

Wildscape visionary Molly Hollar — where do you think I get all this material, month after month? — has a front yard with no lawn. Post oaks sloping down from the street coexist with the groundcover mix that Texas native plant guru Sally Wasowski recommends for this Eastern Cross Timbers region. Wood violets start the show in February, followed by golden groundsel blooming in March, along with the redbuds. The blue

lyreleaf sage goes glorious in April and retains its color for about a month, then in summer it's the violet ruellia's turn. Initially, Molly just wanted to reduce her St. Augustine, but she liked the results so much that she eliminated the grass entirely — and her lawn mower, too.

Volunteers have been propagating these wonderful plants all year in preparation for the annual Texas native plant sale at the Molly Hollar Wildscape in Veterans Park from 1 to 4 p.m. April 29. Whoa, surely this sweet tale of yards in bloom wasn't just a thinly disguised setup for a sales pitch. Aw, it was, it was. Wood violets, golden groundsel, lyreleaf sage, cedar sedge and white avens in 4-inch pots will be for sale, along with many other native groundcovers, perennials, ornamental grasses, shrubs and trees. As a bonus this year, you can learn more about these plants from God's own green thumbs, Rosa Finsley and John Davis, at a workshop from 8:30 a.m. to noon that day at the neighboring Montessori Academy, 3428 W. Arkansas Lane.

The plants that will be for sale are growing in the wildscape and eager, if plants can experience eagerness, to be



Last month's Wildscape workday volunteers pried weeds out of the gravel path.

admired. While you're there, check out the refurbished kiosks featuring the "Wildscape Wildlife Residents," "Creatures of the Night" and "Springtime in the Wildscape" displays.

Workshop registration deadline is April 22. Forms are available on the next page and on the web site: arlingtonconservationcouncil.org. A noontime box lunch is optional. The good time you'll have — that's guaranteed.

Happy Birthday to Hill's Happy Habitat Julia Burgen

The 2005-2006 school year is the tenth anniversary for the courtyard garden at J.L. Hill Elementary School, 2020 W. Tucker Blvd. in west central Arlington. In the spring of 1995, Martha May Martin, a teacher at Hill and ACC member, received an Arlington ISD Foundation Innovative Teaching Grant for \$4,162 to develop the school's inner courtyard into an outdoor learning laboratory. ACC provided volunteer support for design, materials and labor through the Adopt-a-School program.

Work began in late October of 1995. Many loads of gravel were removed as well as boxwood plants. Those and a live oak tree were the basic greenery. Then loads of topsoil and compost were brought in. All of the school's classes were involved in some phase of the effort. By March 1996, the beds were ready for planting, and on April 26 a student and volunteer event celebrated both Arbor Day and Earth Day with dedication of the courtyard garden.

ACC newsletters from that time indicated volunteer work by Jim Barnes, Carla Bower, Bonnie Bowman, Julia Burgen, Sarah Dendy, Karen Foley, Margaret Gariota, Anita Garmon, Eddie Jean Kriedeman, Marianne Herrmann, Molly Hollar, Charles Mitchell, Louise Morrison, Margaret Santarelli and Russ Zimmer.

Molly provided plant design; she and Anita helped the students in planting; Anita labored with the gravel removal; and Charles Mitchell made plant signs; and Margaret and Jack Gariota built and installed an arbor. Sarah started the Cornell Feederwatch program with the students in 1997.

Following Martha Martin's retirement in May, 2000, Sarah and other ACC and Hill parent volunteers continued to help with Feederwatch and gardening. When Sarah moved to North Carolina in 2004, Julia Burgen and Monica Daily took over leadership of the courtyard. They have continued with Feederwatch and manage the garden with parent volunteers.

To celebrate the ten-year history of this AISD grant project, an event will be held on Friday morning, April 28. Weather permitting, it will be in the courtyard and invitations will go out later. Please plan to reserve the date as ACC members will certainly be invited.

Texas Wildscape Workshop and Texas Native Plant Sale



Workshop:

Saturday, April 29 9:00 am - 12:00
 The Montessori Academy
 3428 W. Arkansas Ln
 8:30 am - 9:00 am
 Registration and refreshments

**On Saturday morning,
 learn how to create
 your own wildscape.**



Plant Sale:

Saturday, April 29 1:00 - 5:00 pm
 Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park

For a list of plants expected to be available
 and more details, go to
ArlingtonConservationCouncil.org

**On Saturday afternoon,
 invest in organically grown
 native plants for your wildscape.**

Texas Wildscape Workshop

Location: The Montessori Academy. North of I-20 at 3428 W. Arkansas Lane. From Green Oaks Blvd go east on Arkansas Lane to entrance road.



Rosa Finsley, landscape architect and native plant authority, and John Davis, Urban Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., will show you how to use native landscaping and employ thoughtful design to create a backyard that is inviting to people and wildlife alike.

Included in topics covered will be design, plant material, water use, and ordinances.

Workshop requires pre-paid registration.

Registration deadline April 22

Confirmation - By email or phone; will not be mailed out. **Refund - Requires notification by April 22. No refunds for late cancellations or no-shows.** Questions? Call Marian Hiler at 817-277-3998 or email info@arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

Mail check and registration form to:

ACC, PO Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

Box lunch from Jason's Deli (optional, add \$6.00)

Sandwich choice, check one:

turkey roast beef ham vegetarian

Workshop \$24.00 _____

Box Lunch \$6.00 ea _____

Total enclosed _____

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

Please circle membership category.

Name _____

Individual/Family \$24.00

Address _____

Student \$12.00

New member

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Renewing member

E-mail _____

Sponsor \$100.00

Other \$ _____

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THE POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
PO Box 216
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't forget!

Next Meeting
Wednesday, April 12

Yaromir Steiner:
Arlington's new town center

Be sure to visit us at
arlingtonconservationcouncil.org