

**FEBRUARY
2003**

February Meeting

TOPIC: Texas Watch: Monitoring for a sustainable tomorrow, one drop at a time.

SPEAKER: Steve Rothwell

WHEN: Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 pm

WHERE: First United Methodist Church, 313 N. Center at Division. (Enter through north door.)

NOTE: Steve has been involved in Texas Watch since 1991 and participated in the first training offered in Texas. He is certified as a monitor and trainer and works with school teachers, civic groups, individuals and anyone interested in their environment.

Looking Back at 2002

ACC can be a little hard to define at times. Is it a twisted sort of garden club? A mini-Sierra Club whose boundaries are the city limits? People who just can't abide litter? Or is it something else entirely, a group defined by the diverse interests and concerns of its members? A partial list of our activities last year may help define us, at least until we look back at the 2003 list.

November 2001-March 2002: Project FeederWatch with the 3rd grade at Hill Elementary School. Information is sent to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology where it is analyzed with data from about 15,000 other sites in the US and Canada.

February 2: Grass Harvesting with John Snowden. Volunteers dug up large quantities of native grasses at a southwest Arlington site soon to be bulldozed. Twenty one-gallon containers of little bluestem ended up being planted at Veterans Park.

April 6: East Arlington Renewal Spring Fest. The festival was rained out, but we were there for the second year, this time with our recycling-themed game.

May 11-12: Pecan Street Festival. We presented our display and operated the game, and this was the first time we used our recycling bins.

April 18: UTA Earth Day. Stephen Smith made toy tops from waste bits of wood, and we explained our display to passing students and staff.

April 20: Second Annual Community Litter Challenge. We gathered trash of every possible kind from Richard Greene Linear Park by the Ballfield.

April 20: EarthFest at Martin Luther King Jr Sports Center. Once again we made kids happy with the game.

April 20: Special Parks Workday at Randol Mill Park. We helped with mulch, planting, and gardening in the Wildscape.

May 14: City Council. ACC received a check for second-place finish in the Community Litter Challenge. Organizer Roni Crotty and Mayor Odom offered the city's thanks and encouragement. Maybe next year we'll be back on top.

June 15: Natural Urban Living Garden Show. Thanks to AOGC, we presented our display and an illustrated talk on Wildscaping at Bob Duncan Community Center in Vandergriff Park

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From the President by John O'Malley



I want to thank those of you who attended the annual ACC planning meeting on January 18. More than 40 people were there, and we

picked up three new members. Once again we are indebted to Epworth United Methodist Church for the use of their facilities. Thanks, Sarah, for arranging the room. We enjoyed a brief address from Julia Burgen, City Council member for District 5, past ACC president, and the person responsible for the revival of ACC about 10 years ago. We heard from the Arlington Parks & Recreation Department: Gordon Robertson, Assistant Director for

Planning, told us a little about the Parks Department's current efforts and made interesting suggestions about how ACC could help the city and itself in the coming year. We finished off with a brief, organized discussion about plans for ACC this year, next year, and beyond.

Specific suggestions and ideas put forth during the meeting will be discussed in next month's issue of the Post Oak by our new president.

Welcome, Ellen and Roy. Thank you all for being willing to give much time and effort to make ACC an even greater



success in 2003.

I want to recognize the 2002 board members for their hard work and many accomplishments. Thanks to Stephen Smith, Jean-Marie Smith, Marian Hiler, Sarah Dendy, Jo Briggs, Molly Hollar, and John Darling. It was my pleasure to present to John a special award from the board to honor him for his work on behalf of ACC. He vows the professionally framed print of a cartoon will hang proudly over his desk. *(Editor's note: The half-crazed fellow staring into a computer and talking mindlessly to a cat is right on the mark, alas.)*

Although I remain on the board, I am not serving as President this year. I was very happy to serve for two years and am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to ACC's success. It's been a

great chance for me to grow personally while doing something I believe in. My fellow board members presented me with a beautiful wooden bowl handcrafted by Stephen Smith from a piece of cedar elm that was salvaged from a limb in the Veteran's Park wildscape. Thank you, ACC friends.

Our new board of directors was voted in by the members at the planning meeting. On January 27 the board met once again at Worthington National Bank. Thanks, by the way, to every-

one at the bank, especially Greg Morse, for making us feel so welcome there. At that meeting, officers were selected from among the board members. The 2003 ACC board members and officers are Marian Hiler, President; Stephen Smith, First Vice President; Roy Miliner, Second Vice President; Jean-Marie Smith, Treasurer; Jo Briggs, Secretary; John Darling, Newsletter Editor; Sarah Dendy, Molly Hollar, Ellen Baskerville, and me. All except Ellen and Roy served on the board in 2002.



POST OAK

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Looking Back at 2002

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June 22: Plant sale at Randol Mill Park greenhouse. Proceeds from sales of native plants propagated by ACC volunteers in the Randol Mill greenhouse benefited the Wildscape and the Parks Department.

July 4: Fourth of July Parade. ACC provided the first recycling at the parade in response to Lorrie Anderle's hope that someone would start recycling at this thirsty event.

August 23: With ACC guides, **Montessori Academy** students explored the wildscape at their school.

September 14: First cleanup day at Center-Mesquite Bridges. Along with lots of Parks workers, we cut and hauled off invading willows, picked up some trash, and perspired.

September 21: Trinity Trash Bash. We set up the game near the hot dogs and were a big hit. We also provided recycling bins.

October 26: O.S. Gray Park workday. We helped spread mulch on new nature trails and look forward to further developments in this park.

October 12: Founders Park cleanup. We participated in one of Roni Crotty's monthly trash days, in spite of having to wear the fluorescent orange vests.

November 16: First backyard compost class at Veterans Park compost site. Arlington Master Composter Don Graves taught his 2-hour class here, and more classes are planned. The site shows the kind of joint venture we really like: ACC, Arlington Master Composters, and the Parks Department have all contributed to this successful compost demonstration site. And the finished product goes directly back into the Wildscape.

Local Environmentalist Honored

Bob Scott has been chosen to receive the 2003 Excellence in Environmental Awareness Award in the Individual Category from the League of Women Voters of Texas. He was chosen by a panel of League members and environmentalists.

At their annual State Convention, the League of Women Voters of Texas honors selected individuals and organizations for their contributions to protecting and preserving the natural resources and environment of the state with the Excellence in Environmental Awareness Award (EEAA).

Note: Bob and Earl Burnam, founders of the Tarrant Coalition on Environmental Awareness, spoke to ACC a couple of years ago and they continue to keep us informed through timely e-mails and newsletters. Congratulations, Bob.



EarthFest needs us!

Lots of volunteers will be in demand for the greatly expanded EarthFest at River Legacy Parks April 12-13. ACC will have an educational display, and possibly the game and recycling bins. We'll also be needed for other activities, so plan now to help out.

2002 Speakers

We're grateful to all the committed speakers who gave up their time to make our meetings so valuable last year:

From Trading Post to Wrecking Ball. Marvin Wilson, Arlington Historical Society

Arlington Transportation: What's Up? Carol H. Walters, Senior Research Engineer, Texas Transportation Institute

It Works When We All Pitch In: Recycling at UTA and More. Craig Powell, Director of UTA Environmental Health & Safety

Arlington Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan: Shaping a New Agenda for Our Community. Gordon Robertson, Assistant Director - Planning, Arlington Parks & Recreation

Energy from Wind: A Reality in Texas Today. Shane Powell, Green Mountain Energy Company

Rainwater Harvest for Wildlife and Landscape. Billy Kniffen, Menard County Agricultural Extension Agent

Arlington Sanitary Landfill Overview: Questions & Answers. Allen Jones, Solid Waste Manager, Arlington Sanitary Landfill

Building a Better Future: Saving Open Space. Dr Lou Verner, Urban Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Recycling Overview: Where We Are and Where We're Going. Lorrie Anderle, Recycling Coordinator, and Allen Jones, Solid Waste Manager, Arlington Sanitary Landfill

Help Stop The Smog. Katy Hubener, Director, Blue Skies Alliance

Wildscape Update by Marian Hiler



Highlights of Wildscape Workdays: First Saturday
The January workday was a gorgeous, warm, sunny day that made one glad to

have the Wildscape to work in. And that's just what 17 happy people did.



They were either cutting back perennials before their spring growth or spreading woodchips and compost from the front of the Wildscape, along the west sidewalk, and on the way to the boardwalk.

Molly Hollar, Ann Trenton, Pat Lovejoy, and Jan Miller were busy with their hand clippers, while Mike McCorkhill was running his bush hog cutting down spent golden-rod. The bush hog gave up, but Mike kept at it, cutting the dead stalks by hand the old-fashioned way.



Over by the compost area, Nona Batiste, Sarah Dendy, Gailon Hardin, and I took advantage of the mealy blue sage being cut down to their winter

rosettes. With the sage out of the way it was much easier to remove the Bermuda grass that was lurking there.

John Darling used his truck to move two piles of compost for quicker wheelbarrow loading by Harley Mimura and Warren Tingley, who hauled several loads to spots specified by Molly. Jean-Marie and Steve Smith were working on becoming Master Composters, building a new compost pile for future use.

A couple of young volunteers participated on this workday. Jared Bothmann came with Gailon, who has steered more volunteers to the Wildscape than anyone else in recent memory. Jared, a high school student, needed some service hours for his church, so Gailon was glad to help him out. He did a terrific job spreading compost and anything else Gailon found for him to do. Jennifer Hiler brought 12 year-

old Ashleigh Barnett. On her first workday, Ashleigh had a good time helping Jennifer cut back the dead tops. However, she had come ready to do some digging, so no doubt we'll be seeing her again when we have some flats to plant.

Thanks to all the volunteers, new and returning, for giving their time and energy to the Wildscape.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Wildscape at Veterans Park

Next Saturday workday: March 1
Time: 9 am until noon, refreshments provided

We'll be transplanting within the wildscape, removing privet, and spreading mulch. Gloves, long sleeves and long pants are recommended. Bring trowels, small shovels, loppers, hay or pitchfork, and wheelbarrow.

Directions: Veterans Park is at the corner of Arkansas Lane and Spanish Trail. Parking

for the Wildscape is at the second entrance, off Spanish Trail south of Arkansas Lane



Wednesday afternoons at Veterans Park

Time: 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. If the weather is questionable, call Molly to confirm

Contact: Molly Hollar at 817-860-5580 or 817-319-6924. You may want to call ahead for confirmation as the dates draw near.



Call **817-459-6778** by February 12th to register.

Sat., Feb. 15
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sat., Feb. 22
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Learn how to make great yard/garden dirt by composting leaves and other yard waste in your own backyard. And have fun as you go!

* Class graduates receive books, workshop materials, and a compost thermometer.

* You must attend both days to become a Master Composter.

Non Arlington residents will be charged a small fee for class materials.

CITY HAWKS

You see them now and then,
Perched on power lines
Or wheeling over parking lots.
They always look
A little out of place,
As if something
From the prairie
Or the desert
Or the ocean's shore
Had chanced
Into the wrong space.
Even in their repose
Wildness will radiate,
And lethality innate.
A hawk just sitting
On a lightpost,
Shunned by starlings,
Can state more
About predator and prey
Than a treatise in a nature book.

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**All Memberships Expired
January 31st**

We don't want to lose you, but this will be your last issue of the Post Oak if you haven't renewed your membership. Please don't put it off. If you want a better Arlington, renew today—and consider giving a gift membership to anyone you know who values the quality of life in our city. We're only limited by the number of concerned people who realize that we can work together to make real changes. The bigger we are, the bigger the changes will be.

**Nobody made a greater mistake than he
who did nothing because he could do only a little.**
Edmund Burke

Thanks

To Shane Goetz for supporting our efforts. If you'd like to help and publicize your business, call any board member for details.

METRO 817/265-2902

ROSSETTI AND GOETZ
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

SHANE GOETZ

715 WEST ABRAM ST.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013

**Is Arlington's litter
making you a little irritable?**

You can do something about it!

Once a month, the city selects an area for special litter cleanup and needs 10 to 15 volunteers to help from 9 to noon on a Saturday. If you hate litter enough to do something about it, contact Roni Crotty at 817-459-6587 or crottyr@ci.arlington.tx.us

Next Cleanup March 1

**Call Roni right away to suggest
a trashy spot!**

**A Note To Arlington
Master Composters**

For a while we've been sending you complimentary copies of the Post Oak in hopes of encouraging you to take the step from composting to organic native plant gardening, maybe even to active involvement with ACC. Beginning with the next issue we'll start sending our complimentary copies to selected Arlington public school teachers as a way of reaching out to a different audience, at least for a while. But please do consider joining ACC—we're cheap but sort of priceless, too.

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 \$12.00

Address _____

Student \$6.00

Family \$18.00

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Supporting \$24.00

E-mail _____

Organization/Business \$36.00

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 1243, Arlington, TX 76004-1243.
ACC is a non-profit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

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THE POST OAK

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Don't forget!

At the February meeting, Steve Rothwell will present *Texas Watch: Monitoring for a sustainable tomorrow, one drop at a time*. Come learn what we can do to help safeguard our streams and rivers.



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