

**ARLINGTON  
CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL**

**POST OAK**

**WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

**VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2**

**FEBRUARY  
2007**

**Note  
meeting place:  
West Police Service  
Center**

**February Meeting**



**Urban Stream Protection**

**John Davis, Urban Biologist,  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept**

**Wednesday, February 14,  
7:00 pm.**

**West Police Service Center,  
2060 W. Green Oaks Blvd**

**John is one of our favorite speakers,  
and his topic this time is particularly  
important. Don't miss this one.**

**Bits & Pieces**

**Trash Time:**

**Arlington Litter Challenge, Saturday, March 24**

We've probably won more of these litter extravaganzas than any other group, and we can't rest on our laurels this year. We'll need two things to win again: a trashy spot and lots of volunteers. So tell any board member about a place you know that's really bad, and remember to mark your calendar.

**Gilgai Gratitude: Saturday, February 24**

It's really not just another vacant lot in southeast Arlington, and the best way to increase your appreciation is to spend some time at the New York Avenue Prairie with people who understand and love its subtle complexities. See page 3.



**Dues Due**

We mostly know this already, but 2007 dues are past due. It's a sad thing but this has to be the last issue for anyone who hasn't renewed yet. Please renew today.

**Planting Palettes?**

We have a chance to comment on several landscaping schemes for parts of Johnson Creek near the new stadium. After all the losses, why should we care? It's called making the best of a bad situation—and it's all native plants. So if you want a voice, ask any board member to send you the file that shows some choices under consideration.

# From the President John Darling



It's hard to believe, but for the last 68 issues of the *Post Oak* my job has been to badger ACC presidents to hurry up and write their column. I can't tell

you how odd it feels for me to be the one to fill this space (and this job). I can say that it's a lot easier to annoy other people about the dreaded deadline than to follow my own advice.

Of course my first column needs to be full of big ideas, calls to action, and inspirational nuggets. Sadly for me, I passed through that phase some time ago and it's an effort to think that we can make any significant difference in the face of overwhelming forces.

Sure, there are lots of positive things we can do, but they seem tiny compared to the scale of devastation

caused by the Cowboys stadium, our hopelessly dirty air, all the problems associated with gas drilling, and our mindless thirst for water, to name a few. And how about climate change? Looming like a slow-motion nightmare is population. Will Arlington double by 2030? 2040? 2050? Who cares? Whatever the decade, does any one of us think that the gains we make now won't be crushed under the sheer mass of new people coming in?

I might seem a little gloomy for a shiny new president, but I have plenty of reasons. The important thing is that I also have three reasons to keep picking up other people's trash, to keep going to meetings, to fuss about recycling and composting and all the rest of it.

Here's the first: Every good thing we accomplish now will take on much greater value in the crowded future. Every green city regulation, every park

acquisition, every innovation that becomes ordinary (curbside recycling, for instance), will be good now and even better in the future.

The second reason sounds like a platitude, but it works and I need to think of it often: *Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.* (Edmund Burke) I made that great mistake for most of my time in Arlington, and I won't keep making it. If nothing else, doing even a little makes me feel disproportionately better.

My third reason came as a surprise once I fell into ACC activities. It's the people. It's learning that I'm part of a group that shares my values and concerns. It's knowing that the shared defeats won't be quite so bad, and the shared successes will be a lot better.

So here we go, off to another year. Let's see what happens.

## THE POST OAK

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

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

**Contributors**  
Bonnie Bowman, Jo Ann Duman, John Dycus, Molly Hollar, Danny Kocurek, Jan Miller

**Proofreader** Grace Darling  
**Mailing Specialists** Peg and Tom Kennedy

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

**m|j|a**  
mycoskie+mcinnis+associates  
civil engineering surveying landscape architecture planning  
www.mmatexas.com

Herb 'n Health  
Natural Foods Market & Herb Shoppe  
3759 E. Lancaster St. Ft. Worth Tx. 76105  
Karen Foley 817-555-1152

KNUDSEN'S  
**Portfolio**  
STUDIO  
519 West Main Street • Arlington, TX 76010  
PortfolioStudio.net  
817-265-4441

**r** redenta's  
garden shops  
landscape design

arlington 817.451.2149    dallas 214.823.9421    landscape 817.469.6786

www.redentas.com  
"an experience in gardening the way it was meant to be"

METRO 817/265-2902  
LOCAL 817/274-2905

**THE LAW OFFICE  
OF SHANE GOETZ**

715 WEST ABRAM ST. ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013

**Ebby Halliday**  
REALTORS

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 Jan Miller

This prairie has been a park for just about 10 years now. Still, what is it? And, what do we do with it? Thankfully, it's a park...owned by the citizens of Arlington, Texas, USA. But it's been a prairie since the last ocean receded from these parts: It's seen zillions of sunrises, sunsets, season after season, year after year, age after age. Creatures have come and (well, mostly) gone: most recently, bears, mountain lions, passenger pigeons, prairie chickens, bison, wolves, deer, turkey, horses, cattle and...humans, lots of 'em. This little 9 or 10 acres can't support many of those megafauna types, but what about the soil microfauna, the insects, the small mammals? What was there? What's left? What we call "prairie" (from the French word meaning meadow) is based on its plants: few trees but a diversity of grasses and forbs, probably over 100 so far at this site. The plant list grows with each field trip, each season, each year. We know more about plants because they don't run from us, but what of the smaller critters: the mice, the insects?

What will happen to this place? Will development cut it off from the coyote(s) that visit now? How will that change the birds, the mice, the creatures visible and invisible burrowing in the soil? Will the hawks and migrating birds still stop by? Do the insects depend on the birds? Do the plants depend on the insects? Will climate change turn it into a desert or will the Trans Texas Corridor flatten it before then? Who knows?

For now, it makes sense to support and attempt to understand this place and others like it. We can at least stop and notice this place and perhaps give thanks for its uniqueness and resilience. This prairie's been cycling through the seasons for longer than anyone knows, and it looks like it will be back for another season. Thanks to winter rains, down under the bleached and brittle stalks, "our" prairie now wears a near-solid mat of **green**. Still

tender, but growing, vibrant and alive, a zillion little plants, each with its own blueprint for survival, powered by sun and soil. Will there be a bumper crop of grasses this year? How about the wildflowers? Will someone note a rare insect or rodent? Somewhere, will native prairie flora offer an opportunity for biocellulosic ethanol production? Will there be anything new this year that we late-coming humans haven't noticed before? Another sunrise, another spring, another chance!

*A land ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity.* Aldo Leopold

**Next Workday: Saturday, February 24, 9:00 am - 12:00** We'll cut woody re-growth so bring sturdy loppers, hand saws, etc. Remember to wear sturdy shoes or boots, long pants and sleeves, and bring gloves too. Water will be provided. RSVP (to [jgmiller5594@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgmiller5594@sbcglobal.net)) is appreciated, just in case of adverse weather.

Stay tuned for dates and details for field trips, one in early spring and possibly another towards June. Until then, here's a calendar of early spring events:

**February 14:** Stella Rowan Prairie (south Fort Worth) - short walkabout to look for the first trout lilies. Contact Jim at [jevvarnum@aol.com](mailto:jevvarnum@aol.com) for details.

**February 18:** Trout Lily walks at Dallas' Cedar Ridge Preserve (RSVP to Jim Varnum, see above).

**February 16-19:** Great Backyard Bird Count - From your home or pick a site; see [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) for details.

**March 3:** Trout Lily walks at Fort Worth's Tandy Hills (RSVP to Jeff Quayle at [s-quaylei@earthlink.net](mailto:s-quaylei@earthlink.net) or 817/729-0283) and Dallas' Cedar Ridge Preserve (RSVP to Jim Varnum, see above).

**Annual Master Composter class: When:** Friday, February 16, 2006 - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm and Saturday, February 17, 2006 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm **Where:** City Municipal Building 101 W. Abram Street **Fee:** Free for Arlington residents, \$20 for non-residents. To learn more, contact Lorrie Anderle, City of Arlington Recycling Coordinator, 817-459-6778 or [anderlel@ci.arlington.tx.us](mailto:anderlel@ci.arlington.tx.us). To register on line, fill out the form at [http://www.ci.arlington.tx.us/environment/composting\\_register.html](http://www.ci.arlington.tx.us/environment/composting_register.html).

## Trinity River Vision Jo Ann Duman

Many of us have been reading about the Trinity River Vision and the Central City Project in Fort Worth. We've read words like river channelization, economic development, urban blight... words that Arlington residents have been hearing about their beloved Johnson Creek for over a year.

So, what will happen in Fort Worth? Come learn firsthand from the Tarrant Regional Water District's environmental director, Woody Frossard. The meeting will be on Saturday, March 3, at 1:00 pm, at the Tarrant Regional Water District Office, 800 E. Northside Dr., Fort Worth. TRWD's headquarters is located on the north side, a little north of the Stockyards area off North Main St. The meeting is sponsored by TCEA, Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness. We invite everyone from all our member organizations to join us and learn about this huge project with so much potential if done right. For more information contact Jo Ann Duman.

## Wildscape Update John Dycus

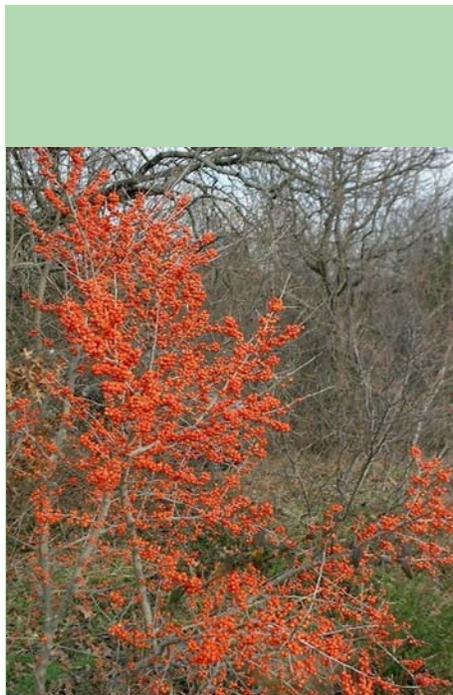


On the cold, rainy, windy days of winter, the wildscape volunteers hit the greenhouse to replenish the mist bench and clean the greenhouse, and to help the propagation team produce Texas native plants to replace the (words cannot describe the hatred we have for) privet. Seeds and cuttings of native plants are being grown in the greenhouse to be planted in the wildscape. With our water supply decreasing and rainfall becoming less dependable, the volunteers favor indigenous natives (growing wild within 50-100 miles) and stout plants from moisture-scarce West Texas. The greenhousers are growing everblooming cenizo, skeleton leaf goldeneye, red yucca, snakeherb, blackfoot daisy, pavonia, coralberry, frostweed and Turffalo, a new variety of buffalo grass; all need only half as much water as typical landscape plants.

**WINTER SCHEDULE:** Saturday, March 3, 9:00 - noon. Tuesdays: mornings 9:00 am - noon, afternoons 1:00 - 3:00 pm. We will be cutting back, mulching and possibly planting some evergreen plants, so bring gloves, pruners and shovels. Coffee, water and snacks will be provided, as usual.



*Longtime propagation volunteer Glenn Troutman does most of the heavy lifting and soil mixing in addition to whatever else needs to be accomplished at the greenhouse, including cleanup.*



*This possum haw illustrates how colorful native plants can be, even in winter. This tree now has very few berries due to the drought. Volunteers have planted about 25 possum haws in the wildscape, so in a few more years there should be lots of these spectacular trees scattered throughout the wildscape to provide great winter color.*



*Rosalie Rogers and Harry Arber have just finished updating the plant label file created by Devanie Fergus.*



*Thanks to Nora Green and Josephine Keeney, the mist bench has been restored and replenished and is ready for propagating.*



*When being outside is desirable, volunteers attack the privet with a vengeance. Winter is the best time of year to remove the devil's own invasive weed. This privet pulling crew includes Ann Mayo, Josephine Keeney, Lisa Marshall, and Danny Kocurek.*

## Eradicate Junk Mail Danny Kocurek

Interested in almost eliminating the amount of junk mail you receive? Consider signing up for a service offered by [41pounds.org](http://41pounds.org). For a one-time fee, they claim to be able to reduce your junk mail by 80-95%. The reason I say "claim" is that they have only been in business for a couple of years and thus do not have an extensive history. However, their reputation so far has been outstanding and their results have been validated by many users. They are recommended by New American Dream, the

organizers of the national effort to eliminate junk mail by creating a "Do Not Junk" list similar to the highly successful "Do Not Call" program for eliminating telemarketing calls. The service takes a few minutes to complete the on-line sign up and is good for 5 years.

As an added benefit, over half of each subscription goes to a non-profit group of your choice and Arlington Conservation Council is one of your choices. The service goes beyond contacting the Direct Marketers

Association (DMA), and they claim to be able to remove locally generated "occupant" junk mail, credit card applications and other sources that do not abide by the DMA guidelines. For more information or to sign up, please visit [www.41pounds.org](http://www.41pounds.org). To identify ACC as the beneficiary of your donation, select Arlington Conservation Council in the drop-down box on the first page of the application. The service costs \$41 for the five-year subscription, but remember that over half goes to the charity you choose, i.e., us.

## This Is Your Last Post Oak (if you haven't paid your dues)

**We need every one of you, so please renew your ACC membership today if you haven't already done so. And help ACC save money and trees by having your newsletters delivered by email—and in living color. Contact Marian Hiler ([mernhome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mernhome@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.**

## Focus on Global Warming Bonnie Bowman

ACC, TCEA (Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness) and the Sierra Club will sponsor a short course on Global Warming. The course explores personal values and habits as they relate to climate change, explains the history and science of global warming, and empowers individuals to take action to curb global warming. The Northwest Earth Institute is the author of the course. Starting on

Friday, February 23, participants will meet every Friday afternoon for five weeks at 3:00 pm in Arlington at the community room in the Woodland West branch library. Call Bonnie at 817-226-8569 to let her know if you plan to come or for more information. Materials will cost \$18.

**Note:** We're seeking volunteers for the Fort Worth Home Show, March 16 - 18. Volunteers get free entry to

the show in exchange for a couple of hours at the TCEA booth promoting ACC and the environment. The feature of the booth, if it fits in the space, will be the Cross Timbers Display. If you haven't seen it - this is your chance to see a concise, informative, and professional display on the forest that once occupied most of our area. There will be brochures available about the display. Call Bonnie if you can help.

## Clean Air Marianne Herrmann

We did a great job by coming out to the recent hearings for the proposed state plan to clean the air! Thank you very much. Surely so many people showing up should impress the panel from TCEQ. The testimony we heard in Arlington against the state's proposal was also very impressive. In addition to the local clean air leaders and concerned citizens, there were several influential people I had not heard on the subject. Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley made a very good case for developing a better plan, and so did County Commissioner Roy

Brooks, who represents many minorities who suffer more from the effects of air pollution than others.

More important events will have happened by the time you read this: The comment period ends February 12, and on February 11 there was a Stop the Coal Rush Rally in Austin and a Citizen Lobby Day on the 12th. The mission is to ask Texas Legislators to intervene in the unfair permitting process of 19 coal-fired power plants proposed for Texas. Lawmakers should stop the "fast track" process so Texans can have a real voice in the

crucial decisions about how we will generate power for generations to come.

You'll find lots more information about all this at [Downwindersatrisk.org](http://Downwindersatrisk.org), [DFWairplan.org](http://DFWairplan.org), and [stopthecoalrush.org](http://stopthecoalrush.org).

Consider visiting the office of your state representative or senator locally or at least write to them. Apparently a real letter has a bigger effect than an email. With all the new information and publicity on global warming, they should be especially receptive now.

### 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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting \$36.00

Renewing member

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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. *I want to save trees; send my newsletter to my email address.*

#### Arlington Conservation Council Officers and Board of Directors

**President** John Darling  
817-274-1077 [1darling@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1darling@sbcglobal.net)  
**First Vice President** Jo Ann Duman  
817-516-7453 [jduman@juno.com](mailto:jduman@juno.com)  
**Second Vice President** Roy Miliner  
226-0203 [rlmiliner@comcast.net](mailto:rlmiliner@comcast.net)

**Treasurer** Marian Hiler 277-3998  
[mernhome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mernhome@sbcglobal.net)  
**Secretary** Jo Briggs 460-8483  
[briggs.robert@comcast.net](mailto:briggs.robert@comcast.net)  
**Editor** John Darling 274-1077  
[1darling@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1darling@sbcglobal.net)

**Board Members**  
Grace Darling Molly Hollar  
Dale Denton Danny Kocurek  
John Dycus Jan Miller  
Marianne Herrmann Stephen Smith

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

## Don't Forget!

Wednesday February 14,  
7:00 pm  
John Davis  
Texas Parks & Wildlife  
Urban Biologist  
*Urban Stream Protection*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Be sure to visit us at  
[arlingtonconservationcouncil.org](http://arlingtonconservationcouncil.org)