

**MARCH
2004**

Business and Virtue Mix at Whole Foods

John Pickett, Produce Supervisor at Arlington's Whole Foods Market, proudly displays a large biodegradable bag as he goes over the details of his store's latest recycling effort: Starting soon, they will aim to reduce waste by 80% as trucks carry compostable waste to a

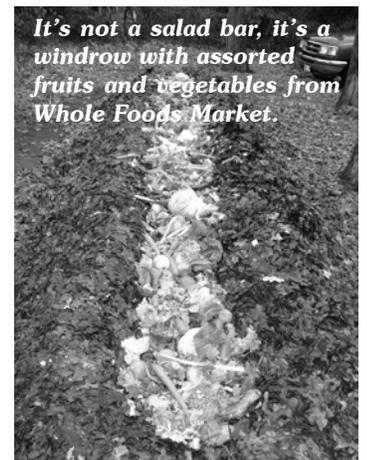


facility in Austin. In addition to overseeing a beautiful display of produce, John is responsible for a range of community-oriented activities that reflect many of the store's core values.



John traces these values to Whole Foods founder John Makey, whose Green Mission program puts into practice what he preaches. For example, all the store's empty cans are donated to the American Cancer Society. And a few weeks ago, Jean-Marie Smith heard

that someone at Whole Foods was trying to find a worthwhile recipient for waste and out-of-date produce. It turned out to be John Pickett, and he, along with his helpful colleagues, was keen to keep that produce out of the landfill. So, with yet another overlap of ACC and Arlington Master Composters, several hundred pounds of produce are being picked up each week by Jean-Marie and others and added to piles at the River Legacy, Veterans Park, and Tierra Verde compost demonstration sites. The hard part is keeping up with that Whole Foods enthusiasm—coffee grounds and juice bar pulp may soon be headed our way.



It's not a salad bar, it's a windrow with assorted fruits and vegetables from Whole Foods Market.

March Meeting

TOPIC: How to Clear the Air over DFW

SPEAKER: Tom "Smitty" Smith, Director of Public Citizen's Texas Office

WHEN: Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 pm

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

NOTE: Smitty Smith is a well-known and award-winning environmental advocate whose talk will be particularly timely. Don't miss this one!

**Remember to bring
something for the raffle!**

From the President Marian Hiler



Over 30 people came to the January 24 ACC planning meeting at Epworth United Methodist Church, bringing both good food and good ideas.

Instead of breaking into small discussion groups, we took a different approach this year, one that several members said they liked more. Poster-size sheets of paper were laid out for everyone to add comments, ideas, and their names if they were interested in participating in the project or topic highlighted on each sheet. The topics ranged from the simple Phone Tree Committee to the more

involved city government activity. Areas that received the greatest interest for members were recycling, parks, schools, and field trips. Interest was also shown for monitoring City government activity. The latter covers a wide range of topics and will need a lot of involvement from members if ACC is to take effective action. You'll hear more on all that was provided as the board goes over the comments, especially if you said you were interested in helping.

During the 2003 review, we discussed the treasurer's report and the budget for 2004. The biggest expense that ACC has by far is the cost of publishing the newsletter. In fact, the budget projects that our 2004 income will not cover publishing a monthly newsletter. The value of the newsletter was stated by many members as one of our major forms of outreach and as an effective way of getting name recognition for ACC. More than half of the newsletters are distributed to nonmembers. They are sent to City Council members, Parks Board members, and the science departments at Arlington schools. More

are dropped off at libraries, coffee shops, and nurseries. Julia Burgen suggested that a Finance Committee be formed to propose ways of increasing revenues and lowering expenses. At the February Board meeting, Roy Miliner, Jean-Marie Smith, Dale Denton, Marianne Herrmann, and Jo Briggs agreed to serve on this important committee.

At the February ACC Board meeting, the 2004 officers were selected from the Board members approved at the January meeting. This year's ACC officers and Board of Directors are the same as last year. I'll continue to serve as President, Steve Smith as First Vice President, Roy Miliner as Second Vice President, Jean-Marie Smith as Treasurer, Jo Briggs as Secretary, and John Darling as Newsletter Editor. Returning Board Member from last year is Molly Hollar. New Board Members are Dale Denton, Jo Ann Duman, Marianne Herrmann, Sandra Lane, Jan Miller, and Al Vincent. I thank the 2004 Board members for their commitment and the entire ACC membership for their support.

Hate Litter?

Do Something About It!

Join the monthly cleanup by contacting Roni Crotty at 817-459-6587 or crottyr@ci.arlington.tx.us

Next Cleanup:
Call Roni for details

THE POST OAK

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A Special Talk: Gardening for Wildlife

In honor of Earth Day, the UTA President's Recycling Committee and Arlington Conservation Council will present an unusual opportunity to learn how to create and restore habitats for wildlife and conserve water by growing native plants.

When: Monday, April 19, noon-1:30 pm

Where: UTA, Nedderman Hall, Room 100

Speaker: Marya Fowler, Manager of Educational Programs, National Wildlife Federation. Fowler is technical advisor to the Schoolyard Habitats Continuum Program in San Antonio and owner of a landscape design business specializing in the use of native plants and creation of habitat for wildlife.



Bring a sack lunch if you like; drinks and dessert provided.

Please RSVP by April 5 by calling 817-272-2185. Park in Lot 26 by Maverick Stadium on Mitchell Street. From the bus stop a shuttle will take you to and from the Nedderman Building starting at 11:30 am.

Are Your Friends Missing Their Post Oaks?

Help them out by gently reminding them that memberships expired January 31. We can't afford to lose any of our valuable members, so please spread the word to any lapsed and potential new members. Thanks!

Blackland Prairie Jan Miller

Saturday February 21 marked the inaugural workday at Arlington's New York Avenue prairie site. A great group of volunteers from Arlington Conservation Council, Master Naturalists, and Native Prairies Association of Texas joined Arlington Parks and Recreation staff to begin removing woody species from the prairie. Two dump trucks full of elm, hackberry, mesquite, and other undesirables were sent packing.

thanks to local support, the 10-acre site was rescued from apartment development, purchased by the city of Arlington, and added to the APRD system in 1996. the site had historically been used as a

hay field and for grazing but never plowed, allowing the characteristic "gilgai" or hogwallows, a dynamic feature unique to unplowed grasslands, to persist. At about 1995, part of the site was burned accidentally by fireworks. For a few years after that, it was

mowed annually for wildflower hay that was used at local restoration sites, but it has not been mowed for several years. Without mowing (or the natural means of management, fire or grazing), woody plants have grown up, threatening the prairie with their shade and continued spread.

Only 0.1% of native blackland prairies still exist. Of the 12 million acres in Texas that were once Blackland Prairie, only about 5000 acres remain, mostly scattered plots of 200 acres



or less.

Many thanks to APRD employees Turk Gibson, Carl Browning, and Jim Moore, who manned the chainsaws and the dump truck. Also to hard-working volunteers Jeff Quayle, Marian Hiler, Weldon Hatch, Randy Schoen, Phillip Hoverstadt, Jo Ann Collins, Alexia Strout-Dapaz, Ann Trenton, Dale Denton, and Jean-Marie and Stephen Smith. Jo Ann is a teacher from nearby Fitzgerald Elementary; she was already teaching her students about blackland prairies and is eager to use the site as a demonstration tool. She was very surprised

that such a natural resource was so close.

There are still more woody plants to be removed, so another workday is being planned for March 20, 9:00 am to noon. Other plans for the site include mowing and a plant survey to better document what is there and to help determine how it can

best be managed. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jan Miller (jmiller12@mindspring.com), Jeff Quayle (prairielover@ev1.net), or Marian Hiler (mernhome@sbcglobal.net).

For more information on local conservation of prairies, including photos of the New York Avenue Prairie, see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NPAT-PhotoArchive/>

Arlington Parks 101 Candy Halliburton

Do you know one place where a kid in Arlington can do all of the following? Shoot hoops with his pals on a Friday night. Take a cooking class from former Cowboy linebacker David Howard. Work in a computer lab or attend a Mavs game at a REASONABLE price. Or, right up ACC's alley, where you can go after school to dissect an owl pellet, learn about birds or how to take care of the environment. The answer is: Hugh Smith Recreation Center in East Arlington.

Last month a friend invited me to take a walk in Bob Cooke Park, a 21-acre neighborhood park behind Hugh Smith Recreation Center and Indoor Pool. After the walk, I went inside the rec center where I encountered Delmond Knuckles at the front desk. He described the center's many programs, then turned me over to Tiffany Dove, Recreation Program Coordinator. She gave me a wonderful tour of the facility, including the pool, which is used for everything from birthday parties to senior aerobic classes, the kitchen, the teen and computer lab rooms, and the weight room.

Tiffany introduced me to Denice Neal, Facility Coordinator for Hugh Smith. Denice facilitates and leads after-school outdoor recreation classes for 6- to 12-year-olds, with the primary focus on wildlife. Most outdoor recreation classes are not really held outdoors but inside, sometimes using information from the center's computers. Occasionally, however, the classes venture out to the pond at Bob Cooke. The pond and its banks are host to various small creatures, mostly creepy-crawlies. Denice said she would like to see plants there that would attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Denice used to teach a class entitled "Nature Explorers" that was specifically for honor students. One of the activities was collecting recyclables and turning potential landfill items into works of art in the form of imaginative mobiles. The seniors at the center got in on the act, too, inundating the center with recyclables. Although the Nature Explorers program was curtailed, Denice is considering reviving it to accommodate all the children who are interested. I wish there were more of us in ACC who could help make Denice's dream come true, maybe by making the pond area a home for greater diversity. There are dozens of students in after-school care at Hugh Smith who could benefit from more encounters with the natural world.

Wildscape Update Gita Mani



Unlike most deciduous trees that jab the winter sky with naked limbs, the post oaks are still holding on to lots of crisp brown leaves that seem to have

defied the fall. Recent rain surely has something to do with the sound of water rushing over the rock feature and down the creek—benches within earshot provide spots for a soothing escape from the daily grind.

Pink fruit of the coralberry add color to a place that is transforming not just seasonally but also from the irrigation/sprinkler system that the Parks department will install. Estimated to be in place by early March, it will enable volunteers to plant continuously and save Molly the tedious work of keeping the 3.5 acres watered using just three faucets. Not that she ever complained! Plant growth will accelerate with steady watering, changing the appearance of the wildscape from barely hanging on to lush and thriving.

February 7 Workday

Thirteen volunteers showed up, undaunted by the chilly weather and eager to help prepare the wildscape for trencher installation. Some of the plants and shrubs dug up were immediately transplanted on site and the rest moved to the greenhouse. Six volunteers potted up 150 one-gallon containers of coralberry. Nearly 600 seedlings and small Carolina buckthorn trees were also uprooted and potted. The coralberry will be replanted in the wildscape once the irrigation system is installed.

Volunteers worked everyday the following week to bump up 30 flats of plants grown from seed in the greenhouse, and to finish potting up.

Telling Signs

Thanks to Ellen Baskerville's focus, the sign committee will soon have all interpretive kiosks and signs restored and improved. Ellen graciously researched and organized the committee and

produced models of signs for the main kiosk. Shirley Jones, sign expert for Texas Parks and Wildlife, will visit from Austin to review our signs and bring with her a graphic artist to create the signage. Jan Miller made a good buy on Lexan, the clear polycarbonate sheets that protect the signage. Stephen Smith has offered to replace the kiosks.

They say WeCAN and they mean it. Thirteen enthusiastic volunteers from WeCAN (West Citizen Action Network) pitched in on February 21. Led by Glenn Troutman, they spread compost and cast seed balls of huisache daisy, lazy daisy and gaillardia; clasping coneflower at the seasonal wetland near the boardwalk; and evening primrose in the buffalo grass area west of the sidewalk and the bare spot in the bioswale area. They also pruned roses in the xeriscape. This is the second time that they have volunteered and their efforts and support are greatly appreciated.

Short of Pots

The plant propagation team is all out of quart containers. If you have empty ones to donate, please call Molly at 817-8560-5580.

Thank you!

Thanks to the greenhouse staff for cheerful support and ample space given to plant propagation.

Thanks to Gailon Hardin, Pat Lovejoy, and several Master Gardener volunteers, including Charlie Shiner, who contribute regularly.

Thanks to the Parks department of the City of Arlington for their tremendous support. In addition to putting in the sprinkler system, they're providing stepping-stones for the path from the zigzag bridge to the stone bridge at the creek, and to edge the trail from the boardwalk near the pavilion to the meadow.

Shirley Craig is a great source of native plants and tasty home-cooked lunches. Anne Alderfer, Hester Schwarze, and Jean Hiler have been a huge help at the greenhouse. Jean, the undisputed propagation queen, bumps

plants up at the incredible rate of 20 flats per hour!

Stephen and Jean-Marie Smith do a great job of keeping the pavilion graffiti-free. They also work on water testing and composting.

Thanks to all the volunteers who nurture the wildscape with their talents, time and energy.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE MOLLY HOLLAR WILDSCAPE AT VETERANS PARK

Monthly Workday Saturday, March 6

Time: 9:00 am – noon; refreshments will be provided.

The focus: planting what's been propagated. Bring gloves and shovels. If you'd like to volunteer, please call Molly at 817-860-5580.

Weekly Workdays

Tuesdays, 1:00 pm – 3:00pm. Call Molly at 817-860-5580 if you plan to attend.

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.

Our March Speaker

Kevin Charles, City of Arlington Landscape Administrator, set new standards for audience participation during his lively talk on tree ordinances. And he held his own through a barrage of questions and comments.



Bonnie Bowman Nominated for Environmental Award

(Editor's note: Following is an excerpt from the Arlington League of Women Voters' letter submitted in support of Bonnie Bowman's nomination.)

The League of Women Voters of Arlington nominates Bonita (Bonnie) Bowman for the 9th Excellence in Environmental Awareness Awards.

Environmental protection efforts/achievements

Her more active involvement with environmental issues started with her membership in the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County in 1979. The studies and discussions introduced her to many issues including those of the environmental movement and shortly thereafter, she joined the Sierra Club. However, her major involvement, when work and school permitted, was with the League of Women Voters.

In 1993 she was elected President of the League of Women Voters of Arlington. During this year the League of Women Voters hosted a forum on a proposed waste disposal site in the Village Creek floodplain. As a result of this forum and surrounding publicity, the site was withdrawn. At this forum, she met the founders of the Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness, a local coalition of the major environmental organizations and brought the League of Women Voters of Arlington into that coalition. During her term she also met Julia Burgen, a local environmental leader, and became a part of the rebirth of the Arlington Conservation Council. She also participated in Leadership Arlington, a respected annual, local course to assist in developing community leaders.

In 1994 she accepted a board position for the Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness (TCEA) and agreed to serve as their representative on the Resource Conservation Council for the North Central Texas Council of Governments. She served on these two boards for 5 years. During this time she put out the TCEA newsletter and participated in the Resource Conservation Council's Partnership for Illegal Dumping.

In 1994, Bonnie accepted the position of chair of the Recycling Task Force of the newly reorganized Arlington Conservation Council (ACC). She joined the board of directors of the Arlington Conservation Council in 1994 and served as first vice president from 1996-1997, president from 1997-1998, and treasurer from 1998-2000. During her tenure with the Arlington Conservation Council, she was involved in establishing an Adopt-A-School project to create a native plant courtyard out of a cinderblock courtyard at a local elementary school. She was deeply involved in the effort to preserve Johnson Creek, a major local tributary of the Trinity River and a creek of significant local history. Although the envisioned 11-mile linear park along the creek was defeated by voters, major areas along the creek have been preserved as parkland. While she was President, ACC sponsored a March for Parks event to promote neighborhood parks. This event raised enough money to donate a picnic table made of recycled materials to Howard Moore Park in Arlington and featured a contest for articles and crafts made from recycled materials. ACC also published a green shoppers guide to provide consumers with information on where to purchase organic and environmentally friendly products in local stores. Other major environmental efforts were directed towards saving large trees in commercial developments, a citywide revision on the drainage code with an update of the 100 year flooding, and encouraging citizens to oppose the continued operation of the cement kilns in Midlothian as long as they did not meet current clean air standards.

Following her tenure as president, she was successful in securing grants from the EPA and Texas Native Plant Society. The grants were for expanding the State of Texas Certified Wildscape at Veterans Park in Arlington so as to include a bioswale to contain the erosive drainage from a large nearby parking lot and for purchase of understory trees to replace the invasive privet that was removed from the wildscape.

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

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

THE LAW OFFICE OF SHANE GOETZ

715 WEST ABRAM ST. ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013

Litter Challenge To Be Held March 27

For the fourth year we'll have a chance to prove ourselves and clean up Arlington in the process. We're still searching for the trashiest site, but you can be sure we'll let you know the location as soon as we're sure it's suitably nasty.

Wherever we clean up, the event will be held from 9:00 am until noon. We're counting on you for help in winning our division again.



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 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216.
ACC is a non-profit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

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Don't forget!

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Tom "Smitty" Smith
of Public Citizen will present
How to clear the air over DFW
March 10
First United Methodist Church

Be sure to visit us at
arlingtonconservationcouncil.org



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