

MARCH 2005

March Meeting

- Topic:** Aromatic Herbs
- Speaker:** Judy Griffin, Ph.D.
- When:** Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 pm
- Where:** First United Methodist Church,
313 N. Center at Division
(enter through north door)
- Note:** This will be an up close and personal session on aromatic herbs, the significance of essential oils, and the benefits of organically cultivated herbs. Here's Judy's Web site for more info:
www.aromahealthtexas.com/index.asp

Remember to bring something for the raffle!

Landfill Leased Grace Darling

Editor's note: On February 22 the city council voted unanimously to approve leasing the Arlington landfill. The following is Grace's constructive approach to a development many of us tried to oppose:

Since their vote to lease the landfill, some members of the Arlington City Council have been working (behind the scenes, of course) to create a citizens oversight committee to monitor



Workers from Texas Campaign for the Environment protested the landfill vote.

solid waste operations. This was Bonnie Bowman's idea, and she and Candy Halliburton are representing ACC in the negotiations about the proposed charge, jurisdiction, structure, and composition of this new permanent committee for the city.

I initially argued for a more ambitious

environmental affairs advisory board, but Julia and Bonnie advised against it and I'm now convinced that their focused approach is better.

There is no guarantee we'll get what we are asking for, but Bonnie's vision is as follows:

"I suggested that we look at the Resource Conservation Council of NCTCOG regarding the scope and the authority. The scope of the committee would include all solid waste issues identified regionally and statewide. RCC has some reviewing authority that we could consider but ultimately is advisory. RCC issues include reduction - compost, recycling, reuse, new markets.. and waste disposal - trash pickup, landfill, illegal dumping, hazardous waste disposal (HHW, cooking grease, oil, ...) as well as other disposal technologies. The committee would review permit applications and city contracts and seek ways for the city to improve in these areas. Perhaps they would be interested in monitoring the RCC grant process for opportunities to bring some of that money back into our community. The members would also be responsible for helping City Council inform the citizens at large about upcoming decisions."

We're proposing a 5-to-9-member committee, with someone from industry, someone from the city, a couple of civic/environmental groups, and a couple of community volunteers. The details may change, but we expect Council to approve it by April.

From the President Candy Halliburton



If the number of ACC members present at our January semi-annual general meeting is any indication of our involvement in commu-

nity projects and issues in 2005, all I can say is-WOW! We encircled the long main tables and those of us who couldn't find space sat at the "children's" table in the back. As usual there was a great spread of food but even more in abundance were great ideas for making a difference in 2005. Everyone participated by signing their names to lists of task forces and voting on the slate of officers and directors for this year. At the time, the office of the presidency was left open. Marian Hiler, after 2 years of magnificent service as president of ACC, encouraged someone fresh to step up, but you all know how tough it is with so many responsibilities nowadays to squeeze in one more. More next month on how the presidency managed to get filled. Maybe.

Here is a list of the ACC 2005 Board of Directors and Officers:

Co-Presidents - Wayne and Candy Halliburton
 1st Vice President - Jo Ann Duman
 2nd Vice President - Roy Miliner
 Secretary - Jo Briggs
 Treasurer - Al Vincent, transitioning from Jean-Marie Smith
 John Darling - Newsletter Editor and Board Member
 Dale Denton - Board Member
 Marianne Herrmann - Board Member
 Marian Hiler - Board Member
 Molly Hollar - Board Member
 Jan Miller - Board Member
 Donna Piercy - Board Member
 Stephen Smith - Board Member

For an organization of our size, I feel that we have taken on quite an environmental landscape for the year; everything from the old standards like the 4th of July parade, the Trinity Trash Bash and recycling, to the reemergence of a March for Parks event to help highlight Arlington parks and promote the Parks Bond election in May, to issues affecting our quality of life such as the landfill lease, air quality and a tree ordinance. I will follow and end with a list of task forces and our members who graciously volunteered to head them up.

Air quality - Marianne Herrmann,
 Johnson Creek and the Stadium - Roy Miliner
 the landfill - Grace Darling
 4th of July Parade - Stephen Smith or John Darling
 Green Guide Development, Field Trips and our Web Site - Dale Denton

Our new co-presidents, Wayne and Candy, on a recent walk along Johnson Creek.

Molly Hollar Wildscape and plant propagation - Molly Hollar
 CGA (Community Gardens of Arlington) - Stephen Smith
 Hill Elementary Courtyard - Julia Burgen
 Walk on the Wildside - Jean-Marie Smith
 Wimbish Elementary Courtyard - Carrie Donovan
 March for Parks, the Litter Challenge and newsletter items - John Darling
 Membership - Jo Ann Duman or Marian Hiler
 Phone Tree - Jo Ann Duman
 Publicity - Jean-Marie Smith

Please feel free to call or e-mail me, or to e-mail John Darling, if I have forgotten to mention your project or matter of concern and it will be mentioned in April's newsletter.

We welcome new and long-time members alike, whether you have a whole chunk of time or only a greatly appreciated spec, to join a committee, place a phone call, or write a letter to the editor at the Star-Telegram about one of our group undertakings for which you may have some passion.



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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 better the changes will be.

New York Avenue Blackland Prairie: Next Workday March 12



It's just plain fun on the prairie; you can tell by all the tropical clothing on last month's crew. And you will be noticed: area 5th graders saw "some hippies" at work there. Similar volunteers have been described as prisoners on work-release detail. So come on out and impress the passers-by.

We'll be working from 9:00 am until noon with an Arlington Parks and Recreation Department crew to remove small trees from Arlington's New York Avenue Prairie Park. The APRD crew will be operating their power equipment, but please bring your loppers, hand saws, etc. Gloves, sturdy-soled shoes, long sleeves and long pants are helpful. Water will be provided.

APRD mowed the site in January, so it's looking more like a prairie. Spring is just around the corner and we'll probably see some early spring blooms. Also, a plant survey would be helpful to document the site and our efforts. Is anyone interested in participating? Please call 817/988-9341 for more information.

Directions: Exit I-20 at Collins. Take the access road east to New York Avenue and turn right onto New York Avenue. The prairie is on the left (east of the road). Continue past it and take the next U-turn; park along the old roadway just south of the prairie.



A gilgai attests to the prairie's unplowed condition

DFW Wildlife Hotline — 972-234-WILD

Spring is just around the corner and that means countless baby birds, squirrels, and cottontail rabbits will be born in the Metroplex. If you find one of these small creatures in your yard, help is just a phone call away.

A new hotline launched recently by the DFW Wildlife Coalition is staffed daily from 7 am to 10 pm by trained volunteers, including Texas Master Naturalists. For callers who have found a juvenile animal, the volunteers provide information on possible ways to re-unite the baby with its parents. In the case of sick, injured or orphaned animals, hotline volunteers connect callers with licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

The hotline also provides free information on effective, humane solutions to common wildlife problems—including ducks in swimming pools, squirrels in attics, raccoons in chimneys, opossums in crawlspaces and skunks under decks.

As featured recently in the Dallas Morning News, the DFW Wildlife Coalition is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the number of incidents in the Metroplex that result in orphaned, injured and euthanized native wildlife.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please visit the website at www.dfwwildlife.org or call the hotline at 972-234-WILD.

Another Honor for Tierra Verde

Here's part of a January news release:

For preserving a natural and native setting, Tierra Verde Golf Club and its golf course superintendent, Mark Claburn, have been named the overall winners of the 2004 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA).

Claburn and Tierra Verde Golf Club will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Golf Digest* and the February edition of GCSAA's *Golf Course Management*. Judges selected winners in three national categories (public, private and resort courses) and an international winner, with an overall winner being selected from the four.

"These environmental leaders are prime examples of why golf courses are valuable assets to a community," said GCSAA President Mark J. Woodward, CGCS. "I congratulate these golf course superintendents and facilities for their commitment to environmental stewardship and contributions to enhancing the enjoyment of the golf experience."

Wildscape Update John Dycus



Let's hear it for spring. The winecups are peeping out and spilling over the stone border in the butterfly garden at the Molly Hollar Wildscape, soon to be joined by masses of pink

evening primrose. Blooming golden groundsel, lavender lyreleaf sage and purple violets will intensify the show. Butterflies are fluttering and songbirds are singing, adding movement and sound to complete the joy of strolling the wildscape at the beginning of springtime.

Arlington Parks and Recreation crews are transforming the area as they keep zapping the invasive privet. More than 100 understory trees have been planted to restore the woodland beauty. Future springs will bring more color from redbuds, Mexican plums, roughleaf dogwoods, rusty blackhaw viburnums, Carolina buckthorns and Mexican buckeyes.

Abundant rains left the trails muddy, but loads of wood-chip mulch wheelbarrowed and distributed by Mike Warren and his crews have almost corrected the problem. The greenhouse is running over with plants grown by propagation volunteers to be put out in the wildscape and sold at the plant sale April 30 (more info on the sale next month). In addition, several thousand seedballs have been tossed to grow little bluestem and other grasses and forbs in the wildscape prairie and the New York prairie.

Anne and Randy Alderfer spent a recent morning digging out the kiosk in the compost area. Martin Sanchez of the Arlington Parks Department provided an eight-man team to move the kiosk into the new holes the Alderfers excavated beside the double kiosk to make it, if you're counting, a triple kiosk. Ellen Baskerville and her sign committee are working on improved displays.

Spring is a time of accelerated activity in the wildscape with much to



Winter branches form intricate patterns, even on the grayest days.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE MOLLY HOLLAR WILDSCAPE AT VETERANS PARK

Monthly Workday Saturday, March 5

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

Work will move to the greenhouse if it's too cold or windy at the wildscape. If you'd like to volunteer, please call Molly at 817-860-5580 or 817-319-6924 (cell). E-mail her at mahollar@earthlink.net.

Weekly Workdays

Tuesdays, 9:00 am – noon. 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.

PLANT PROPAGATION AT RANDOL MILL PARK GREENHOUSE

Fridays, 9:00 am – noon. Call Molly at 817-860-5580 if you'd like to participate. The team will continue making cuttings and starting seed.

Directions: 1901 West Randol Mill Road, 0.4 miles west of Fielder on the north side of Randol Mill Road. Enter the park and stay on the road around and past the swimming pool. You can't miss the greenhouse.



The new and improved triple kiosk now features the former compost kiosk at right. New signs will take its place as part of the planned improvements at the compost site.

Master Naturalist Shirley Craig, a splendid wildscape volunteer, donated dozens of these small trees, while others were rescued by numerous Veterans Park loyalists. And composting volunteers have provided bins of "black gold" to get these young trees ready to grow. This wonderful compost changes surviving plants into thriving ones and is greatly appreciated.

be done. The urge to flee the living room and enjoy the outdoors can be compelling. Beginning this month, wildscape workdays will be Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and/or 1-3 p.m., and the first and third Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, to give the volunteers more choices. Call Molly Hollar at (817) 319-6924 for details.

Regional Transportation Grace Darling

On Monday, February 7, Councilman Steve McCollum, District 6 at large, presented an overview of “Regional Transportation Challenges and Major Initiatives” to the League of Women Voters of Arlington. Mr. McCollum and Council Member Kathryn Wilemon are Arlington’s representatives to the Regional Transportation Council, a 40-member board of local elected or appointed officials from various cities and counties in Texas. Among several interesting statistics, we learned that the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area

- is the ninth largest in the U.S.
- ranks second in population growth, adding 1 million residents in the 1990s
- had approx. 5 million people as of the 2000 census
- is expected to have more than 9 million people by 2030
- is larger than 16 states in land area
- is larger than 27 states in population
- accounts for more than 34% of the state’s economy

The plan adopted by the RTC in January 2004 is multimodal—that is, it provides for light rail and commuter rail, HOV and other managed facilities (including bicycle and pedestrian transportation districts), and freeways and tollways. Of particular interest is the proposed rail system, which follows the Union Pacific tracks east–west through Arlington and the Burlington Northern line north–south from Dallas, with a spur

along highway 360 to service the General Motors plant. Around the Metroplex the rail system would link with the future Trans-Texas Corridor, which runs east near Rockwall and west to Wise county. The Trans-Texas Corridor is envisioned as a rail system connecting all parts of the state and would run along Interstate 35 through our area. The corridor is structured as a public–private partnership that presumably will be funded with an additional half-cent tax once it is approved by a simple majority within each county.

Proponents of the corridor, which is Governor Perry’s initiative and has now been taken up by the Texas Department of Transportation, praise the idea for its effect on moving freight traffic away from the congested DFW area, with a resultant decrease in airborne pollutants. Opposition to the Trans-Texas Corridor is minimal at this early stage in the project, which is estimated to be 10–15 years away from completion, but consists of an unlikely alliance of environmentalists, ranchers, and businesses along the very wide right-of-way. The corridor would carve a broad swath through the Hill Country and other environmentally sensitive areas, and would involve considerable property condemnation for construction of new rail facilities. In addition, existing commercial firms would not welcome the increased competition on I-35 the corridor would bring.

If you wish to monitor the progress of this and other mass transit proposals, the RTC meets the second Thursday of each month at the NTCOG building in Arlington. Meetings are free and open to the public. Stay tuned.

Start Saving Now



The 4th of July parade will be here before we know it (really!), so start saving your plastic and aluminum recyclables for our float. If storage is a problem, bring them to the meeting and somebody will figure it out. Thanks.

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

Special April Meeting Place

On April 13 we plan to meet at the West Police Service Center at 3909 West Green Oaks Boulevard. Jo Ann Duman is working feverishly on a special program, so make a note and plan to be there.

Watch Birds at Tierra Verde

On Saturday March 12 from 6:00 am until 11:00 am everyone is invited to record (or just learn about) birds at our environmentally friendly golf course. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring field guides, binoculars, cameras and notepads. Feel free to bring your own refreshments or enjoy the full-service restaurant for lunch after the event.

Please phone or email to allow staff to get a head count of potential participants.

817/548-5060
Mark Claburn Claburnm@ci.arlington.tx.us
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Mapsco: 108R

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

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Supporting \$36.00

E-mail _____

Sponsor \$100.00

How did you hear about us? _____

Make checks payable to Arlington Conservation Council. Mail to ACC, Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216.
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Expired January 31st
Please Renew Today.

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