

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

**NOVEMBER-
DECEMBER
2002**

**No December Meeting
See You in January**

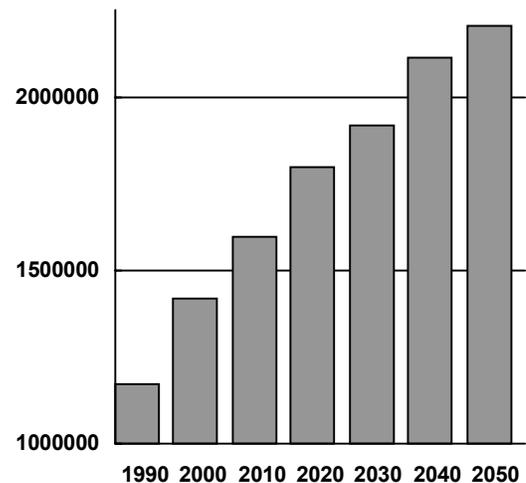
November Meeting

- TOPIC:** Help Stop The Smog
- SPEAKER:** Katy Hubener, Director, Blue Skies Alliance
- WHEN:** Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 pm
- WHERE:** First United Methodist Church, 313 N. Center at Division.
(Enter through north door.)
- NOTE:** We're living in dirty air from May to October. Come to learn how we can fight it. Ms Hubener is a knowledgeable and widely known advocate for clean air.

Arlington's Future?

There's no December meeting, but it's already time to start thinking about the planning meeting on Saturday, January 18. That's the annual brunch where we hope to hear your ideas for the coming year. In the past we've used lots of words to encourage your participation. Here's something different to get you thinking: fewer words and one devastating graph.

Tarrant County Population Projection



These numbers come from the Texas Water Development Board, but they have huge implications for more than water. Try to picture an Arlington with more than twice the population 50 years from now.

The graph gives urgency to everything we can accomplish now because every environmental factor in Arlington is going to worsen in the future. How much worse will it be? To some extent that depends on us right now. You'll get a reminder in December about the planning meeting, but please start thinking about it right now.



Molly Hollar Receives Award

Our ACC board member and spiritual leader, Molly Hollar, was presented with the Nancy Benedict Memorial Award at the October state meeting of the Native Plant Society of Texas in Houston. The award is given for acts of conservation or public service in the field of Texas native plants. From what we know of Molly's tireless efforts at Veterans Park Wildscape and elsewhere in Arlington, they couldn't have made a better choice.



More Post Oak Murders

Recent church construction at Center and Park Row began with the usual tree cutting and has progressed to include a big hole. Where's all the dirt? It's sitting heavily around the remaining post oaks, at least one of which is more than 30 inches in diameter. Unless something changes, a few years from now the congregation will be wondering why all the trees died. The tree ordinance is just not enough; builders and crews must work in ways that protect any remaining trees.



Founders Park Cleanup

On October 12, several ACC members responded to Roni Crotty's plea for help by collecting masses of trash from one of Arlington's most attractive and valuable parks.

Founders Park flanks Johnson Creek just north of Vandergriff Park and it's recognized as one of our best places for migrating birds. After every big rain trash washes in and collects along the creek in amazing (and depressing) quantities.



Eager Nolan High student separates recyclable trash from that other stuff.



Master Composter Morris Anthony shows how it's done.



What flavor trash? We've got something for every taste at Founders Park.



Sarah Dendy and Julia Burgen show off our prizes.

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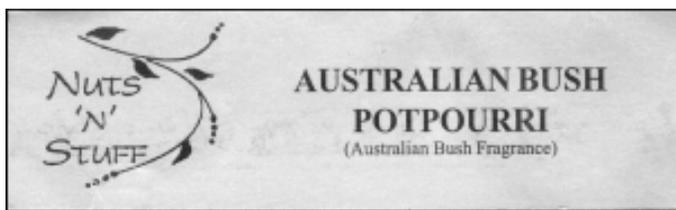
Compost Class at Veterans Park

On Saturday, November 16, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am, there will be a free class and demonstration at the Veterans Park compost site. There's no need to register, just show up and learn from Don Graves, Master Gardener and Master Composter. Don teaches the second Saturday compost classes at River Legacy Living Science Center and can answer any question you may have about backyard composting.

Directions: The park is at the corner of Arkansas Lane and Spanish Trail. Park at the second entrance on Spanish Trail south of Arkansas Lane. The site is on the north side of the parking lot.



Don Graves (second from left) explains the principles of backyard composting on a chilly Saturday at the River Legacy compost demonstration site. Don's class is informal, popular, and free.



Real Men Love Potpourri

A while ago She Who Must Be Obeyed received a package of potpourri from some very thoughtful Australians. Your editor was manfully ignoring it until the label's small print was pointed out:

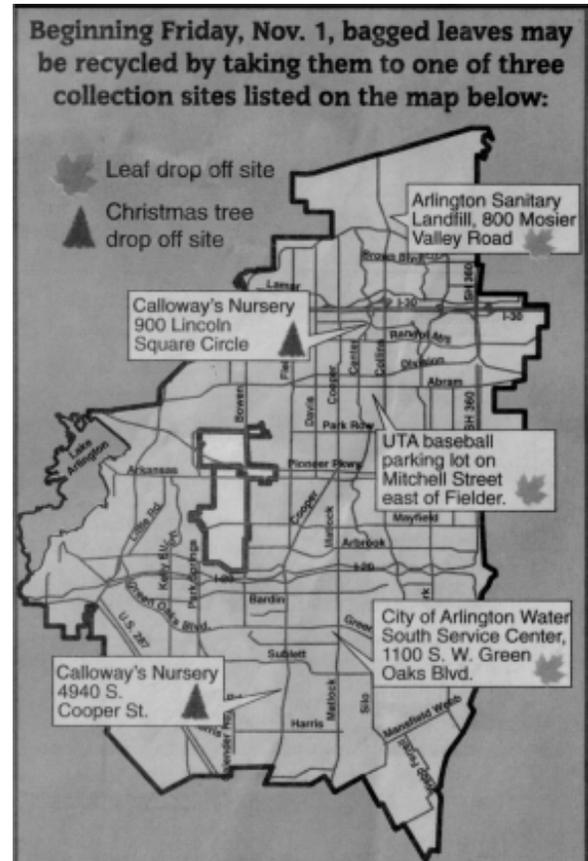
PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA

All nuts and pods used in this product are a bi-product of licensed seed collecting for Landcare, land regeneration, farm forestry, or the nursery industry.

This looks like a great idea. Do we have anything like it? Could we make a Wildscape potpourri? Think about it and maybe we could do something interesting.

October Meeting

We're grateful to the city's Recycling Coordinator, Lorrie Anderle, and to Allen Jones, Solid Waste Manager, for agreeing at the last minute to step in for Bob Byrd to present a comprehensive overview of recycling in Arlington. You could tell it was an engaging talk because our speakers were bombarded with thoughtful questions.



Leaf Dropoff Sites Announced

Arlington officials have decided that it is impractical to institute citywide leaf collection this year. Leaves will continue to be collected with trash and will be wasted in the landfill (as if they were trash). We do have an alternative, however. We can take bagged leaves to any of the three dropoff sites shown on the map above, and those leaves will be sent to a compost facility.

It will be interesting to learn if this approach succeeds. Residents who use their leaves for mulch or compost won't carry them to the sites. And people who think leaves are trash know they can just pile the bags on the curb and wait for the truck to take them away. Who's left? Only those in some middle range who won't use the leaves themselves but still don't want them wasted. Let's inform those people about the dropoff program and get them involved.

Wildscape Update by Marian Hiler



What's In Bloom

With all the rain and moderate temperatures, Veterans Park Wildscape is now full of blooms. Shades of pink and red

Salvia greggii, profusions of blue fall aster, wild ageratum, coral honeysuckle, frostweed, Turk's cap, lantana, and *Salvia coccinea* can all be found. Grasses such as rusty topped bush bluestem and golden lindheimer's muhly are here, too. In addition, Mexican plum and sumacs are beginning to take on their fall color.

Highlights of Wildscape Workdays



It's hard to remember how bad the south end looked until recently. If you remember a big, half-dead patch of bermuda, you've got the picture.

Prairie Project

Jan Miller has agreed to oversee restoration of the pocket prairie site and the moist meadow. In late October John Snowden spent a morning with Molly and Jan reviewing the prairie to suggest what would be appropriate to plant there. Part of their plan is to start with plants that are found in the early development of a prairie. These pioneer

plants prepare the soil for plants that are found in a mature, climax prairie. One such pioneer is purple top. Molly later gathered some purple top stalks from another area of the Wildscape to harvest the seed. At one of her Friday propagation workdays, Jean Hiler, Molly, Candy Halliburton, and John O'Malley prepared the purple top seed. They were rewarded with thumbs black and greasy from the oily tops.

First Saturday

The weatherman had been teasing Molly with suggestions of rain just before the

first Saturday workday. Well-timed rain would make it easy to dig holes for all the gallon containers that were to be planted that Saturday. The good news was that the rain came; the bad news for the diggers was that it came on Sunday and, for that matter, seemingly the whole month of October.

In preparation for the planting, John Darling, Stephen Smith and John O'Malley brought their pickup trucks loaded with wheelbar-

rows and dozens of plants retrieved from Molly's. As usual, Molly arrived early and laid out the plants for the volunteers to insert into the hard ground. And there were many volunteers who came to do just that.

Gailon Hardin and Alexis Strout-Dapax planted Canada wild rye by the Turk's cap near the pavilion. They later joined Sarah Dendy and Mary Turner



It's not all glamorous planting and weeding. Master Composter Interns Stephen and Cyndi Ives made a big dent in the compost area brush pile and demonstrated serious recycling in the process.

who were planting bushy bluestem in the drainage swell by the vehicular bridge. Nearby, Harley Mimura and John O'Malley replaced three Carolina buckthorns that died last summer.

Near the compost area, Jean-Marie and Stephen Smith and Candy Halliburton planted 45 red *salvia greggii*. These replace the gaillardia, annuals that had completed their blooming. Just north, John O planted three cenizos.

The pocket prairie was also being worked. Jan Miller and Sarah planted 20 gallons of Canada wild rye. Candy, Gailon, Harley, and Alexis planted sideoats grama by the waterbars at the north entrance to the pocket prairie. Gita Mani gathered seeds here from partridge pea, mealy blue sage, and zexmenia. The partridge pea will be planted in this prairie in February and will help add nitrogen to the soil. Seeds of the purple top prepared earlier, as well as cowpen daisy and Canada wild rye, were scattered here.

In addition to planting, trails were being mulched. Mike Warren and his coworker Matt brought two kids to do some mulching. They mulched heavily

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Wildscape Update *continued from page 4*

from the zigzag bridge to the stone bridge and out to the sidewalk. Martin Sanchez, Arlington Parks & Recreation, had “brought mountains of mulch.” Most of the trails need remulching so we will certainly be calling on Mike again. Also, Jean-Marie and Stephen helped John Darling keep a supply of compost going in the compost area.

As always, thanks go to the many dedicated volunteers who continue to give their time to the Wildscape.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Wildscape at Veterans Park

Next workday: December 7

Time: 9 am- noon, refreshments

provided.

The focus will be on mulching to protect plants for the winter and on weed control. After the first freeze is a good time for privet removal because it’s about the only thing that’s green

Wednesday afternoons

Time: 1:00-4:00. If weather is bad we will move to Molly’s house to propagate plants.

Directions: The park is at the corner of Arkansas Lane and Spanish Trail. Park at the second entrance on Spanish Trail south of Arkansas Lane.

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

Native Plant Propagation

Greenhouse at Randol Mill Park

Tuesday mornings

Time: 9 am-noon

Directions: Go to the north end of the park just past the swimming pool.

Contact: Molly Hollar, 817-860-5580, or Candace Schwartz, 817-275-7041

Molly’s Place

Friday mornings

Time: 9 am-noon

Directions: PLEASE call Molly Hollar at 817-860-5580 to confirm and for directions.

All Memberships Expire January 31st

Please don’t put off renewing your membership. 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.



Compost Challenge

What about compostable furniture? Is this an idea whose time has come? Or is it, as your editor’s wife and supervisor asserts, just plain goofy? Her cats have finally transformed this once elegant chair into junk, so it’s headed for the compost pile. The chair looks like pure carbon, so it’s going to need a lot of nitrogen. Maybe there’s a poetically appropriate possibility that involves feline waste products, if we can overcome some adverse health issues. More on this in future months as it progresses.

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 November 16

Call Roni right away if you can help!

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 76094-1243.
ACC is a non-profit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

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Don't forget!

At the November meeting, Katy Hubener of Blue Skies Alliance will present *Help Stop the Smog*. If you hate those ozone days, be sure to attend and learn what we can do about them.



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