

**APRIL
2004**

*Native Plant Sale!
See Page 4 for details*

April Meeting

- TOPIC:** Habitat Restoration for Endangered Species: The Black-capped Vireo in Dallas County
- SPEAKER:** Dr Marcy Brown Marsden, Department of Biology, University of Dallas
- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 14, 7:00 pm
- WHERE:** First United Methodist Church, 313 N. Center at Division (Enter through north door.)
- NOTE:** Dr Brown Marsden is President-elect of Audubon Dallas and Chair, Cedar Ridge Preserve Management Committee

Remember to bring something for the raffle!

Native Plant Garden Set to Start at Vandergriff Park

ACC has chance to help with first phase of new wildscape

We have another opportunity to assist our Parks Department and spread the word about the virtues of native plants. On Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 am until noon or so, we are invited to plant the first bed of what will become a large and highly visible wildscape in Vandergriff Park, Arlington's second most-used park.

At a recent meeting with Gordon Robertson, Park Planning Manager; Joe Pack, Park Planner; and Jay Falgout, Park District Supervisor, ACC board members discussed plans for the new demonstration garden, which will be phased in on the site of a former playground. Molly Hollar has agreed to work on the design for the garden and the Parks people have pledged significant support in terms of soil preparation and transport and placement of a number of large rocks.

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Vandergriff Park Project
Saturday, April 24
9:00 am - noon
Bring planting tools



From the President Marian Hiler



ACC continued its tradition of placing in the annual Arlington Community Litter Challenge, this year tying for second place among the 25

entrants in the over-18 group. Bag counts of the top 4 groups were within a 3-bag range. Considering that we had about half as many participants as we did last year, I think we did an outstanding job. Those filling the bags were Bonnie Bowman, Jo Briggs, Dale Denton, Jo Ann Duman, Ann Knudsen, Jennifer Hiler, Steve and Jean-Marie Smith, Ann Trenton, and me. This year



Some of our Litter Challengers savor the end of a messy morning's work: Stephen Smith, Marian Hiler, Dale Denton, Jean-Marie Smith, Jennifer Hiler, and Ann Knudsen.

we picked up litter on a wooded edge along 303 west of Park Springs. One of the factors that helped get all 45 bags to the dropoff site in time to be counted was Jennifer's truck and the extra-large trailer provided by local businessman Phil Wood of Muscle Car, ably hauled by Steve. Thanks to all who played a part!

Back on February 28, Molly Hollar did one of her favorite things. She talked about one of her favorite places, though in a bit more formal circumstance than she is used to. She was invited to speak on the Molly Hollar

Wildscape during the Native Plant Spring Symposium held at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. Not to pass up an opportunity to promote it, she gave a 10-minute presentation as part of the Ecological Gardening session. She was a real pro, staying cool even as she had to put up with initial problems with the PA system. Molly was in good company, participating in a panel with Rosa Finsley and David Mahler. Rosa, the Wildscape's landscape architect, remarked to the audience that the Wildscape project was different from a lot of others she has been approached about. Those, she said, would ask for

her help but in reality they wanted her to do the work. In contrast, the Wildscape volunteers, inspired so well by Molly, have been there working from the beginning.

At one of our recent board meetings Marianne Herrmann called for ACC's taking an active role in the battle to improve our air quality. Of course, she is right; we have high concentrations of



A distinguished panel at the Native Plant Society Spring Symposium: Molly Hollar, Rosa Finsley, and David Mahler.

ozone in the Metroplex and a proposed coal burning power plant near Waco in the offing. Marianne has jumped right in, leading ACC's Air Quality Task Force. As their initial effort, the group has submitted a letter to Mayor Robert Cluck, thanking him for his supporting regional efforts to clean up the air by serving on the Clean Air Coalition Committee and creating a new city council committee for air quality.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Air Quality Task Force, contact Marianne by phone at 817-275-8092 or email her at ulmar@airmail.net. I thank her for not only pointing out what ACC needs to do, but doing something to make it happen.

THE POST OAK

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Corrections

Kevin Charles, City of Arlington Landscape Administrator, spoke to us in February, not in March.

The correct name of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Whole Foods Market is John Mackey.



Blackland Prairie News Jan Miller



Volunteers and Arlington Parks employees continued to remove woody species at the New York Avenue Blackland Prairie site on Saturday, March 20. Many thanks to APRD employees Mario Ortiz, Carl Browning, and Jim Moore and to volunteers Anita Baker, Emma Duran, and our youngest, very enthusiastic volunteer Caleb Gamez, Marian Hiler, Jennifer Hiler, Molly Hollar, John Snowden and Alexia Strout-Dapaz. Julia Burgen came by after a meeting and provided encouragement too.



The next workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 9 am until noon. John Snowden identified an isolated remnant of big bluestem and Indian grasses that needs a priority rescue from trees near the old homesite. Please bring loppers and handsaws; gloves and sturdy footwear are recommended. Mesquite thorns are plentiful and can puncture shoe soles. For more information, please contact Jan Miller (jmiller12@mindspring.com) or Marian Hiler (memhome@sbcglobal.net).

Earth Day at Half-Price Books

Donate and recycle your old cell phone and support literacy efforts in Texas. Drop it off at any Half-Price Books store in Texas. Your old cell phone will be donated to a charitable recycling service where it will be refurbished, given a new telephone number, and passed out to various national and international charities. For every cell phone you donate, \$1.00 goes to support Texas Literacy Efforts. Donations accepted April 1 - 30.

John Dycus Honored

On April 2, longtime ACC supporter John Dycus was inducted into the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's Hall of Fame. Other inductees include Walter Cronkite and Bill Moyers, but my favorite has to be John Dycus, who came up with a fine thought on his experience with the UTA newspaper: "The *Shorthorn* was the product, but the students were the prize." Congratulations, John, from an amateur editor to a consummate professional.



Our March speaker

Stephen Smith talks with Smitty Smith (right), Director of Public Citizen's Texas office. Smitty discussed our air pollution issues with enthusiasm, knowledge, and an inspiring determination to improve our air.

Time for Free Mulch

Arlington residents can now get free mulch at the landfill. It's the product of last year's recycled Christmas trees and the city's leaf recycling program. Bring a tool for loading and a tarp if you're using a truck or trailer. For help with loading call 817-283-0632.

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.

Bring a sack lunch if you like; drinks and dessert provided. For more information call 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!

Wildscape Update Gita Mani



What's In Bloom
Behind a magic bench at the Wildscape stand coralberry bushes wearing neon green, and in front of it a mass of Texas gold

columbines—yellow long-spurred flowers that seem poised for take off from scalloped-edged foliage. Look for this bench as you stroll freshly mulched trails. Finding it will be your prize!

Blackfoot daisies brighten the overlook area. The coral honeysuckle at the double kiosk is weighed down by a profusion of its own trumpet-shaped flowers. Not far are clumps of pink Gregg's salvia and a solitary clump of white ones too. Golden groundsel blooms stand tall near the pavilion.

March Workday and Plant Propagation

At the March 6 workday, wildscape volunteers paired up with five youth from Tarrant County Juvenile Services led by Mike Warren. A number of Boy Scouts showed up and a Girl Scout leader worked with them. Trails were mulched and planting done. Anne Alderfer took pictures, including one of human mountain goats Kay Sekio, Pat Lovejoy, Ann Trenton, and Jean-Marie Smith planting coralberry on the slope below the overlook for erosion control.

Jean Hiler, Molly Hollar, and Glenn Troutman have made full use of the greenhouse at Randol Mill Park to propagate plants. Enter the greenhouse and behold healthy plants in all stages of development, many of which—especially the 4" pots—will be sold at the Native Plant Sale on May 1.

Honorable Mention

On Wednesday, March 24, 40 eighth-graders and 10 ninth- and tenth-graders, all honor students from Temple Christian School in Fort Worth, mulched trails and weeded in teams of five. Molly Hollar gave the pleasant and cooperative

bunch a short description of the wildscape so they would better appreciate their own contribution to sustaining it. Several students expressed a desire to return as volunteers and the school intends to continue the program on a regular basis.

Thank you!

To the many volunteers who arrive no matter the season, sleeves rolled up or bearing baked treats.

To Anne and Randy Alderfer, for agreeing to fill spots on the Wildscape committee. Vandals broke the top of the arbor leading to the meadow and Randy has offered to fix it.

To Jean-Marie and Stephen Smith, for continuing to keep the pavilion graffiti-free and working on water testing and composting. Stephen has also offered to repair and put new Lexan in the doors to the double kiosk.

To composting gurus John Darling and Don Graves who transform organic refuse into rich stuff to reuse.

To Gailon Hardin and Taylor Stephens-Parker, for arranging Pat MacNeal's native plant propagation workshop.

To Molly, for her kindness and unflagging energy. For being a ready source of detailed notes as I write these updates. Thank you, Molly!

Native Plant Sale

The Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park

Saturday, May 1: Native Plant Sale
Time: 9 am – 3 pm

Bring plenty of green (of the paper variety) to buy:

Organically grown native plants:
Perennials: black-eyed susan, columbine, four-nerve daisy, flame acanthus, gayfeather, lance-leaf coreopsis, Maximilian sunflower, mealy blue sage, Mexican butterfly weed, purple coneflower, salvia coccinea, Turk's cap and violet ruellia.

Ground Covers/Vines: Frog-fruit, golden groundsel, horse-herb, lyre-leaf sage, passion vine, snake-herb, violets and white avens.

Grasses: Gulf Coast muhly, Lindheimer's muhly and inland sea oats. Other grasses provided by Bluestem Nursery will be available.

Trees: Eastern red cedar and roughleaf dogwoods.

Butterfly garden starter kits: Each kit will have a flat of twenty plants, a 1-gallon passionflower vine and Henry Turner's butterfly garden handout with care instructions.

Garden gloves and books on native Texas plants will be on sale. Native plant experts will offer free advice on just the right plants to suit your yard.

If you're not in the market for plants, come browse the information table for handouts on native plant and butterfly gardening. Or take a 15-minute guided tour of the Wildscape ending at the butterfly garden, and be sure to look for the magic bench.

All proceeds from the plant sale benefit the wildscape.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE MOLLY HOLLAR WILDSCAPE
AT VETERANS PARK

Monthly Workday

Saturday, May 22

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. Fill a desperate need for weekday volunteers. 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.

Native Plant Garden Set to Start at Vandergriff Park

Discussion focused on how to make a start without hurrying through the design. The entire area could include almost 9000 square feet and will require a number of design considerations that, everyone agreed, should not be rushed. In order to coordinate the project's start with Earth Week, we will begin working on a relatively small bed adjacent to the former playground. This bed will contain a kiosk that will be used to promote the project and future planting events.



Joe Pack, Molly Hollar, Gordon Robertson, and Jay Falgout on the site of the initial native plant bed.



Propagation Workshop a Success Taylor Stephens-Parker

At the request of Gailon Hardin, Pat McNeal, well-known Austin area nurseryman and native plant expert, recently presented a 4-hour propagation workshop to 25 Wildscape volunteers at the main Greenhouse in Randol Mill Park. Arlington Parks and Recreation Board Member Glenn Troutman, an ardent supporter of The Molly Hollar Wildscape in Veterans Park, and Park Staff Lucy King and Tracy Holmes were also in attendance. This group of volunteers is responsible for growing thousands of native plants from seed and cuttings and then planting them where they are needed in the wildscape. After enjoying Mr McNeal's presentation the group adjourned to the home of Stan Parker and Taylor Stephens-Parker for a personal tour of their garden, refreshments, and networking.

Register for YardWise - a class for smart lawns and gardens

When: Thursday, April 22, 7:00 - 9:00 pm **Where:** Arlington Municipal Building, Council Chamber, 101 West Abram Street
Fee: \$15.00. Each paid registrant will receive a YardWise book and a Complete Composter compost bin (a Shepherd's bin) - a \$50.00 value.

Your yard is the environment over which you have the most control. YardWise is a simple four-step program to help you maintain a healthy yard with less cost, less work, and less waste. For information call 817-459-6778 or visit www.ci.arlington.tx.us.

Advance registration required no later than April 19. Limited openings. Arlington residents only.

Smart Yard Contest

Smart Yard is an event to recognize Arlington residents who have incorporated environmentally friendly yard management and design into a "smart yard" using the design concepts from Texas SmartScape™ and similar sources. This event is only open to residences.

Yards will be evaluated by a panel of judges. To be considered, photos (digital format is preferred) must be received by July 23, 2004. If necessary, a site visit may be part of the judging. Limit your submission to 5 recent (June/July 2004) photos for each category, plus 5 additional photos for Best Overall Yard.

You may enter only two categories per yard or address. If two categories are not specified, the judges will determine the most appropriate categories. All entries will be considered for the Best Overall category. Photos submitted will become the property of the City of Arlington. Photos can be emailed to crottyr@ci.arlington.tx.us or mailed to Roni Crotty, PO Box 90231 MS 01-0220, Arlington, TX 76004-3231. For information about categories and prizes call Roni Crotty at 817-459-6587 or visit www.ci.arlington.tx.us.

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

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.
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THE POST OAK

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Don't forget!

At the April meeting
Dr Marcy Brown Marsden
will discuss local aspects
of habitat restoration for
endangered species.

April 14

First United Methodist Church

Be sure to visit us at
arlingtonconservationcouncil.org



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