

ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POSTOAK

WORKING TO CONSERVE ARLINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2008

www.arlingtonconservationcouncil.org

March Meeting Texas Invaders



Marilyn Sallee
Master Gardener, Master Naturalist,
Texas Invader, Citizen Forester,
Master Composter

Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 pm
Fielder Museum
1616 W. Abram Street
(corner of Fielder and Abram)

Bring something
for the raffle

Bits & Pieces

Sounds Like Spring

Getting out of winter feels like a bad roller coaster ride so far, but on the good days our backyard birds are making a real racket about spring, and it sounds great. The cardinals and Carolina wrens seem to be leading the way, but now and then we're cheered by the plaintive whistle, "peter, peter, peter, peter" and there's a tufted titmouse, maybe the same one that's been so bold at the feeder all winter.



Today's Inspirational Moment

One of the first laws against air pollution came in 1300 when King Edward I decreed the death penalty for burning of coal. At least one execution for that offense is recorded. But economics triumphed over health considerations, and air pollution became an appalling problem in England.

*Glenn T. Seaborg, Atomic Energy Commission
chairman, speech, Argonne National Laboratory, 1969*

Spring Again

We used to see this handsome rodent only in the most manicured grassy spots in town — golf courses and cemeteries. They are not appreciated in either place, but they do know how to take it easy: In parts of Texas they may hibernate up to 240 days a year. They're out now, though, if Arlington still tolerates its only ground squirrel, that is.



Rowlett Adopts New Environmental Building Standards

The March online issue of *InSight*, a monthly publication of the NCTCOG Dept. of Environment and Development, reports that Rowlett's new municipal buildings will be LEED certified. Councilmember Steve Raggiotto said, "One key component is that most of what a city builds will stand for 50 to 100 years and over time the operational costs for a building far outstrip capital costs." Learn more at www.nctcog.org/envir/features/2008/mar/rowlett.asp.

From the President John Darling



Is Going Green just another mindless fad? The phrase itself is annoying because it seems so trivial. That's a big problem for this old inhabitant

of the environmental fringe. Or maybe all fanatics get so used to looking at things in a certain way that they can't see what normal people take for granted. I don't claim superior vision, but I do see bad things every day that regular folks just don't get — or worse, they like those things.

They're seemingly little things like bags of leaves piled on sterile, immaculate lawns. Or maybe huge things, like the football stadium or rulings on air quality.

When I started to fill this blank space the little photo above of the intrepid explorer in Mexico reminded me of this vision problem. Once years ago I gave a

ride to a couple of lost gringo surfers in Jalisco. As we passed through miles of ragged farmland, I lamented the complete loss of habitat. It turned out that they didn't know, didn't care, and literally couldn't picture the magnitude of the loss.

Much more recently I tried to find the ramshackle hotel near the tiny fishing village of San Blas where a group of us stayed in 1962 during a biology field trip. It was dank, picturesque, and almost swallowed up by lush rain forest. And it was the first time this New Mexico boy had wandered, open-mouthed, through tropical forest. I should have known better, of course. About to give up, I asked an old vendor at a roadside stall. She pointed across the street to a construction site (photo at right) and assured me that it was the spot, soon to be a major beer distribution center.



Another Earth Day will be here before we know it, and for years I've wondered about our ability to cruise along our destructive path, pausing annually to give lip service to the planet.

The cure? Take a deep (polluted) breath, and get busy. Do some ACC stuff. As spring gets going, so do we, and I'm thankful to have the opportunity for some productive activities right here at home.

THE POST OAK

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

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

Contributors


John Dycus

Proofreader Grace Darling
Mailing Specialists Peg and Tom Kennedy



Organic by Nature
Custom Tree Selection & Planting
Specializing in Organic Techniques
& Proper Installation to Promote Biodiversity
BEAUTIFUL DIVERSE UNIQUE
Sick Tree Treatments • Root Flare Exposure
Air-Spade Services • Landscape Design
Todd Yarbrough - www.orbyna.com
817 915-8872

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



mycoskie + mcinnis + associates
civil engineering surveying landscape architecture planning
www.mmatexas.com
817-469-9871



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



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



911 Wildlife
Uninvited House Guests? •
Humane Evictions - Quick Results - No Traps - 10-Year Guarantee
The only wildlife control company in Texas
owned & operated by licensed wildlife rehabilitators.
(817) 737-0911 www.911wildlife.com

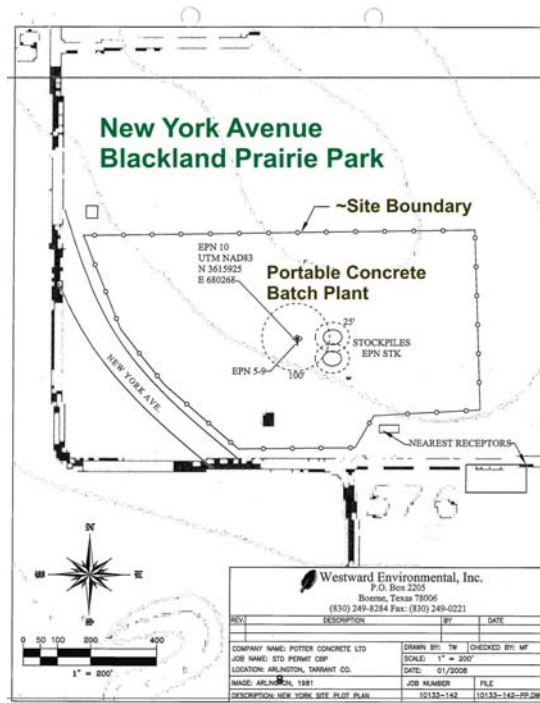
New York Avenue Blackland Prairie

We've always known that our only tiny piece of pristine prairie was located in an area that would someday be developed. Land around the 9-acre dab is apparently zoned light industrial, so anything nasty could — and sooner or later will — happen.

We just weren't expecting a sneak attack, but that's what seems to be happening. Potter Concrete wants to place a concrete batch plant on land immediately south of our undeveloped prairie park. The company has filed an air-quality permit application with TCEQ and claims to have run a required notice in the *Fort Worth Weekly*.

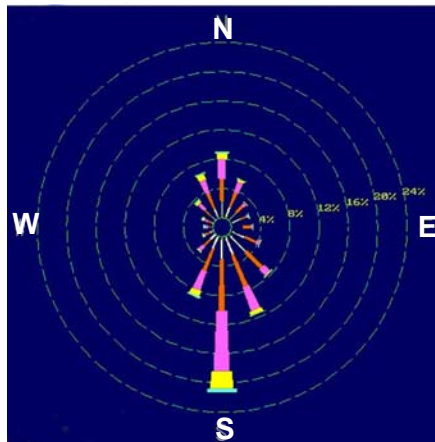
The TCEQ office tells us that the deadline for public comment, even to request a hearing or submit letters, was last Sunday, March 9. As of a few days ago, city officials hadn't heard anything about this.

Why do we care about this particular development? The proposed plant will emit particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter, aggregate, cement, and road dust. And the wind most often blows from the south, moving the plant's pollution directly over and onto the prairie. Is this a health hazard to people — and to our prairie plants?



What can we do? For starters, let your council members (all five of them) know how you feel. The prescribed comment period has supposedly expired, but you might call the local TCEQ office (817-588-5700) and tell them why a notice in an out-of-town publication doesn't cut it in Arlington.

UPDATE: Last Friday night Jim Parajon, Arlington Director of Community Development and Planning, sent a letter to TCEQ informing them that the zoning overlay does not permit permanent concrete batch plants at that location. He's waiting for a response, and so are we.



Above, A wind rose shows that our prevailing winds will usually blow the plant's particulates directly toward the prairie park.



Wildscape Update: Feb 23 Molly's Privet Massacre John Dycus



Here's a big ol' Mollyquote: For 10 years we have pulled privet in the wildscape, so this final victory is truly the ultimate birthday present for me. Huge thanks to

Danny and the Kocureks for arranging this stupendous event, and to all of you fabulous people — you Arlington Parks & Recreation fellows, too — who gave your morning to come and fight and win the privet war! This 80th birthday has got to be the best ever.



80-year-old honoree Molly Hollar with Benjamin Kocurek, 5.



Julia Burgen, wildscape inspiration and former councilwoman.



Councilwoman Kathryn Wilemon helps Glenn Troutman, WECAN president and longtime wildscape propagation volunteer, install a super tool rack he built for the wildscape vault.



Martin Sanchez, APRD district supervisor.



John Dycus, Wildscape Update writer.



Bonnie Bowman, president, Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness.



Danny Kocurek and responsible party (his mother, Peggy Quinn) conversing with privet pullers Julia Burgen and Sharon and Dick Schoech.



Ann Trenton, wildscape volunteer since 1996.

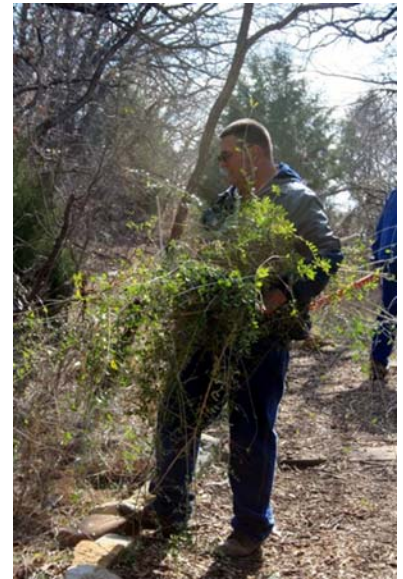
Happy Birthday, Molly. You're never too old to get people to pull privet.



Marilyn Sallee, coordinator, Cross Timbers Invasives Program.



Pete Jamieson, Arlington Parks and Recreation Department director.



Gregg Wilson, Veterans Park lead technician.



Nicholas Kocurek, following in his father's footsteps.



Above, Frank Keeney, wildscape webmaster, and Wesley Miller, wildscape trail team and poison ivy control.



Danny Kocurek, ACC board member and wildscape co-chair.



Left, longtime wildscape volunteers Mary McCoy, education team and Master Gardener liaison, and Jo Poppelreiter, Master Gardener.



Right, Sharon Schoech, wildscape secretary/treasurer, and Dick Schoech, dedicated privet pullers.

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 _____

Sponsor \$100.00

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
First Vice President Jo Ann Duman
817-516-7453 jduman@juno.com
Second Vice President Roy Miliner
230-4295 rlmiliner@tx.rr.com

Treasurer Marian Hiler 277-3998
mernhome@sbcglobal.net
Secretary Jo Briggs 460-8483
briggs.robert@tx.rr.com
Editor John Darling 274-1077
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, March 12
7:00 pm
Marilyn Sallee,
Master Gardener
Texas Invaders

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Be sure to visit us at
arlingtonconservationcouncil.org