Our Next Meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 pm

The next meeting topic for the Collin County Chapter of NPSOT is ‘Large Restoration Efforts at the Connemara Meadow Nature Preserve’.

This presentation will be made by Bob Mione, Manager of Connemara Meadow Nature Preserve, a position he has held since 2011. Bob is a life-long outdoorsman and has been involved in conservation efforts in MO, IA, NE, and SD as well as his native TX.

He has extensive public speaking experience and is delighted to share the successful and not so successful efforts of the Connemara Meadow with those interested in native plant restoration.

The meeting will be held in Laughlin Hall at the Heard Museum. Doors open at 7:00. The program starts at 7:15. We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Dates!

We have several events coming up and we need your assistance. There will be signup sheets and information available at the January, February, and March meetings.

- We will have a booth at The Garden Show at Myers Park on March 18-19 as outlined on page 2.
- We will have a booth at the Heard Museum Plant Sale on April 15-17, as outlined on page 3. We will also help with preparations before the sale.
- We will have a booth at the 2016 Texas Master Gardener Conference at Myers Park on May 17-19 as outlined on page 3.

Heard December Workday

On Saturday, December 5, four of our members, Rodney Thomas, Tony Manasseri, Larry Offerdahl and Bill Woodfin with the help of three Heard volunteers, installed approximately 90 native perennials in The Heard Entry Garden. Brice Creelman supplied about a dozen varieties, including Calylophus, Echinacea, Aster, Anisicanthus, Zexmenia, Salvia and Scutellaria. The plan is to add milkweed, gayfeather, sunflower and native grasses as they become available.

Planting had been delayed due to the severe summer's drought and the lack of a water source. A sprinkler system now provides water twice weekly and a plumber is to install an outlet for a hose in the coming week.

The sprinkler systems for the Main and Butterfly Gardens at The Heard have been repaired and updated and should be fully operational. This should greatly improve what we, as volunteers, will be able to do to maintain the Gardens in the condition they deserve.
Saturday, March 19, 2016 - 9am - 5pm  
Sunday, March 20, 2016 - 11am - 5pm

Our chapter will again have a booth at The Garden Show at Myers Park and Event Center in McKinney. We will share a large booth with Monarch Watch and will need members to volunteer to work the booth some.

http://ccmgatx.org/thegardenshow.aspx

The Garden Show is an indoor event packed with exciting and informative educational events with hands on activities and demos from local experts. Tours of the gardens will be conducted throughout the two day event. Gardens include: Perennials, Annuals, Roses, Crape Myrtles, Vegetables and Herbs, and a rain garden.

Watch this newsletter and announcements at the next few meetings for more details on our booth at The Garden Show.
Heard Native Plant Sale

Heard Members Only: Friday, April 15, 4-7 p.m.

Open to Public: Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, April 17, 1-5 p.m.

Our chapter will again help with the Heard Native Plant Sale. We will help with set up before the sale as well as help customers with selections and carrying their purchases during the sale. We will also have a booth where we will provide information about NPSOT, native plants, and Monarch Watch.

http://www.heardmuseum.org/plantsale

For more than 20 years, veteran and novice gardeners alike have anticipated this rare opportunity to purchase plants from a huge selection of the best plants for North Central Texas gardens, including natives, hard-to-find herbs, and well-adapted plants.

2016 Texas Master Gardener Conference

Tuesday May 17-Thursday, May 19, 2016

Our chapter will have a booth at the 2016 Texas Master Gardener Conference at Myers Park and Event Center in McKinney. We will share a large booth with Monarch Watch and will need members to volunteer to work the booth.

http://www.ccmgatx.org/txmg2016

NPSOT – Collin County Chapter Heard Donation: Thank You Response

Our Chapter made a $500 donation to the Heard Museum in December. Here is their response:

I would like to thank the members and the board of NPSOT for your generous donation of $500 to the Heard museum.

Your club’s ongoing support in time, talent, and treasure enables the museum to continue to fulfill its mission.

Thank you again for all you guys do for the Heard.

Sy Shahid
Executive Director

NPSOT – Collin County Chapter in Magazine: NPSOT News – Winter 2016 Issue

The brand new Winter 2016 issue of the NPSOT News magazine just arrived in our mail. It has a whole article about our chapter on pages 12-13. It is full of information about our chapter, provided by our president, Carol Clark. Each issue features one chapter and details some of their activities.

In addition, I recognized one of Carol’s photos in the Monarch Butterfly Rest Areas article on page 10.
I decide to walk down the hill to the back of my property to check on the beaver pond. I wonder if the dam is still holding up. On my way back, a killdeer flutters along the ground to my left, trying to distract me. I must be near her young. “Over here, look at me”, she cries. “My wing is broken. Over here, over here, take me!”, and off she flies.

I smile as I remember when a killdeer family got stuck crossing the street near my office. The kids were too small to get over the median and mom and dad were trying to protect them from cars. Even if they could get around the median at the intersection, they still wouldn’t be able to get up the curb on the far side.

When I got out of my car, mom and dad flew to the far side of the street and rolled around on the grass like they had a broken wing.

I must have been a sight: A short, balding, overweight nerd in a tie with a towel in his hands, chasing baby killdeers down the street. One by one I caught the babies and carried them to the far curb. Mom and dad rounded up their youngsters as I put them up on the curb. Off through the grass they wandered, off toward the creek.

They’re so cute when they’re that small!

I take some birdseed to where I feed the birds. Where have the blue jays gone? They haven’t been around lately.

The wild rabbits don’t even hop away anymore. (Did I say wild?)

I go to the carport and feed the butterflies. (What do you feed butterflies? Purina Butterfly Chow? No, in addition to lots of native perennials and lantana and catnip, they seem to like banana peel.) I like my butterflies. They must like me; they swarm over me and about a dozen land on my chest and arms. (Maybe it’s the butterfly chow?)
Collin County NPSOT Newsletter

As I walk back up to the house, a flock of starlings fly over on the way to roost about a mile north, in the old abandoned peach orchard. It is so quiet that you can hear the rush of air off their wings as they fly over.

As I reach the patio, I look back west at the sunset – another work of art. Sherry tells me to start the grille. As I sit on the patio and watch the sunset, she hands me a platter of stuff to cook.

As I relax on the patio, I become transfixed as the last shades of pink change to purple and then fade to black. Sherry calls, “You’re not letting that burn, are you?” I snap awake. “Who, me? Uh-h-h, no. Everything’s fine.” (That was close!) I finish grilling supper and take it inside.

The barn swallow family living on my patio is upset with me anyway. They want me to leave so they can go to sleep. To their disappointment, I turn the patio light on for a while. I do this now and then for the spiders. Insects are attracted to the light and the giant orb weaver spiders have a feast.

The only part of tonight’s supper that I didn’t grow is the beef. And it was Angus, raised on my father-in-law’s place. (Ol’ #93. Boy has he been a good one!) After supper I put on Maynard Ferguson and Clifford Brown CDs while I finish reading Rocket Boys and Sherry works on another quilt.

Finally to bed, but first I must feed the dog and cat. (They raise such a fuss when I forget!) Good night all.

Home, sweet home!

John Worley

Collin County NPSOT General Information

The Collin County chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas meets the first Tuesday of January through October, in Laughlin Hall at the Heard museum. Unless otherwise noted, doors open at 7:00 and the program starts at 7:15.

The Native Plant Society of Texas is a non-profit organization with the goal to promote the conservation, research, and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, research, and example.

Thanks for your support.

email: collincountynpsot@gmail.com
website: https://npsot.org/wp/collincounty/