**Our Next Meeting**

Tuesday, February 5, 7:00 pm

The next meeting topic for the Collin County Chapter of NPSOT is **Disease and Insect Problems of Trees in North Texas**. This presentation will be made by Russell Peters from Arborilogical Services.

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

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**Save the Dates!**

We have several events coming up and we need your assistance. See details on page 2.

- We will have a booth at The Garden Show at Myers Park on March 18-19.
- We will have a booth at the Heard Museum Plant Sale on April 15-17.
  - **We hope to schedule a Workday this week, planting Milkweed seeds for the Sale.**
- We will have a booth at the 2016 Texas Master Gardener Conference at Myers Park on May 17-19.
  - **We need a few more volunteers to work this show.**

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**Heard January Workday**

On Saturday, January 23, about a half dozen of our members cleaned up in the (circle) Xeriscape Garden and the Native Garden. It started off a little cold, but with no wind, it warmed nicely. It was a fun and productive day. **You would have enjoyed yourself! We did!**

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**Nature Talks and Walks in Plano**

Carol Clark leads some Talks and Walks at the Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve, off Los Rios in Plano. Meet in the lobby of the new building by the circle parking lot. All are now **FREE!**

**Plants of Oak Point Talks**

- 02-10-2016--10 am
- 03-09-2016--10 am
- 04-13-2016--10 am
- 05-11-2016--8:30 am

**Oak Point Nature Walks**

- 02-17-2016--10 am
- 03-23-2016--10 am
- 04-20-2016--10 am
- 05-18-2016--8:30 am
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.

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.

Even if you don’t work the show, come to the show and visit our booth, along with all the activities.

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
Honeybees are not native to the USA. (Many other types of bees are native in the USA.) Honeybees are European in origin, and were brought to North America by early settlers.

There are 70,000 - 100,000 Bees in a typical hive. The queen bee can live for several years. Worker bees live for 6 weeks during the summer, and 4-9 months during winter.

Honey Bees do not sleep, but they do take mini cat naps. They work all day in the field collecting nectar, pollen, water, etc. and at night they work in the hive, building new combs, repairing old combs, etc.

The honeybee hive is perennial. Although quite inactive during the winter, bees survive the winter by clustering for warmth. By self-regulating the internal temperature of the cluster, the bees can maintain 93°F in the center of the cluster (regardless of the outside temperature).

Honeybees represent a highly organized society, with various bees having very specific roles during their lifetime: e.g., nurses, guards, grocers, housekeepers, construction workers, royal attendants, undertakers, foragers, etc.

Honeybees are not aggressive by nature, and will not sting unless protecting their hive. A honey bee has 4 wings and can fly about 15 miles per hour and can chase you for several miles when disturbed.

Bees tell each other the direction and distance of flower patches using a “waggle dance”. While searching for nectar, honey bees pollinate crops worth an estimated $10 billion in the U.S. alone each year. There’s no debate on the importance honeybees have in our food chain. But perhaps more fascinating is the process of making honey.

Honey bees collect nectar and pollen from flowers. The pollen is carried back in sacks on the hind legs. Bees actually have two stomachs – a honey stomach, which they use like a nectar backpack, and their regular stomach. They use their long, tube-like tongues like straws to suck the nectar out of the flowers and they store it in their "honey stomachs". Back in the hive, worker bees suck the nectar from the honeybee's stomach through their mouths and "chew" the nectar for about half an hour.

Nectar is mostly water with dissolved sugar, primarily sucrose (table sugar), which has large molecules. Bees produce an enzyme which breaks each sucrose molecule into two smaller sugar molecules (glucose and fructose) so that it is both more digestible for the bees and less likely to be attacked by bacteria while it is stored within the hive.

Raw nectar is usually 25-50% sugar. Bees place the processed nectar into wax honeycomb cells, allowing some of the water to evaporate until the honey is approximately 83% sugar and 17% water. This takes a few days.
A worker bee produces 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey over her lifetime. In a single collecting trip, a worker will visit between 50 and 100 flowers. She will return to the hive carrying over half her weight in pollen and nectar.

A productive hive can make and store up to two pounds of honey a day. Thirty-five pounds of honey provides enough energy for a small colony to survive the winter.

The average American consumes a little over one pound of honey a year.

I can’t fathom the number of bees it takes to make a pound of honey. I’m not even sure that my calculator has enough digits to calculate it.

John Worley