Our Next Meeting

**Tuesday, March 1, 7:00 pm**

The next meeting topic for the Collin County Chapter of NPSOT is *Restoration of the Frankford Prairie Church and Cemetery*. This presentation will be made by Rosa Finsley & Kathy Powers.

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!

Heard Workday February 27th

We will have a workday at the Heard Museum on Saturday, February 27. We will be focusing on two sites--the Butterfly Garden and also the circle in the parking lot near the Science Center which has been entered for a Monarch Garden grant.

There is much old growth to cut back in the Butterfly Garden. Please bring hand shears, lopping shears, or cutting tools if you have some, but come anyway if you don't. Gloves are good idea, too.

We will meet at 9:00 am on Saturday in the lower parking lot by the Science Center and split up to work the gardens.

Heard Entry Garden

We have installed over 100 plants in the new Heard Entry Garden including Little Blue Stem from a plot in Wylie that is about to be scraped down to the caliche for a subdivision. The Entry Garden appears to be coming along well and we urge members to keep an eye on its progress as weather warms and the daylight lengthens.

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.
  - To work the sale, sign up through the Heard Museum Volunteer Coordinator.
  - To work the Native Plant Society/Monarch booth, contact Carol Clark.
- We will have a booth at the 2016 Texas Master Gardener Conference at Myers Park on May 17-19.
  - These are weekdays. We need volunteers.

Member Presentation on YouTube

Bill Hopkins, NPSOT webmaster, has made a YouTube video of Betsy Farris' Symposium 2013 presentation on 'South Texas - Beach to Brushcountry'. (Betsy presented the slides to us at the October Member Show and Tell.)

He narrated it and it is the first YouTube video of any of her presentations that she made for NPSOT. The video can be found at: [https://youtu.be/X0FOBtLd3LI](https://youtu.be/X0FOBtLd3LI)

He plans to narrate Betsy’s 2014 Texarkana Symposium next. The intention is that these presentations can be used by chapters as monthly programs or for individuals to share with like organizations.
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February 2016

The Garden Show
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

Tony, Carol and Bill will be visiting several Texas nurseries over the next two weeks and anticipate having a number of plants which were unavailable last year. These include Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum, Carolina Buckthorn, and a few specimens of Weeping Redbud. We also plan to have trees appropriate for small suburban lots that won't dwarf the houses, including Lacey Oak, Eve's Necklace, Mexican Plum, Hercules Club, and Texas Redbud.

Also, on the sale Saturday, short presentations will be given in Laughlin Hall to aid visitors in plant selection for specific needs. Melanie Schuchart will present "Gardening for Butterflies," Carolyn Oldham "Attracting Birds to the Garden" and Dolores Williams "Plants for Shade."

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.

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
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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**!

Questions? Contact Carol Clark at **972-390-2882** or email **carol@r-d-clark.com**

Plants of Oak Point Walks

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Oak Point Nature Walks

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These are some photos I took this week:

So, What’s Blooming at This Time?

What is blooming already this year? Mexican Plum, Violets, Elbow Bush, Windflower, Roundleaf Ragwort, Trout Lilies. Redbuds, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum are going to open their blooms in just a few days.

Native Plant Society of Texas – Collin County Chapter
**Day 1 - Friday**

The hotlines said a spray date had not yet been set. Then, at 8:45 pm, the HOA president sent out a notice that, at the last minute, due to impending storms, the spraying would commence immediately!!!

My friend was hysterical! What effect would the spray have on her butterflies? Her Koi? The birds?

She wanted to cover her pond! She ran outside, grabbed plastic tarps, and just when she got to the pond, a very low-flying plane flew directly over her house.

She was in shock!! Not wanting to be exposed to the spray, she ran back into the house. She grabbed a rain coat and 2 bottles of Stress Coat, quickly ran back out, and treated the pond water in hopes that an increased slime coat on the Koi would protect them.

**Day 2 - Saturday**

She went out to check, with much trepidation! So far, the Koi look okay! They ate voraciously, as usual! She checked the tadpoles living in the algae, expecting that they might be affected. Alive and moving about!!

Perhaps the heavy tree cover may have helped protect the pond, but it's too early to be sure. She has to continue to monitor the water and the fish and tadpole activity to see if there are any delayed effects.

Having said all this ... The garden felt a bit "Twilight Zone-ish" that morning. Not 1 dragonfly darted about. Usually there are 8 or 10 throughout the pond area and the gardens. Females like to hang out in the gardens eating mosquitoes and darting about, while the males hang out around the pond waters waiting for the females to visit for mating.
Only one lonely Honey Bee was nectaring on Milkweed. Usually the gardens are buzzing with 4 or 5 different species of bees, especially Mason Bees and Carpenter Bees as well as Honey Bees.

She noticed no birds whatsoever!! Usually they are flying all over the garden and drinking from the pond water. She walked out front for the newspaper and . . . no birds in the entire neighborhood! It seemed so quiet!!

She hadn’t had a chance to check the label warnings and restrictions, so, wearing a face mask, she will be washing down the foliage and continuing to treat the pond with stress coat. It is a difficult situation. One person dying from West Nile virus is too many, but the silence in her garden that morning was deafening . . . Thus, she mourns.

She did have a positive experience on Saturday. While walking the garden checking for any signs of activity, out of the corner of her eye, she saw something kind of flittering about in the window of her potting shed. It was dark in color and she thought maybe it was a moth that had gotten stuck in the shed and couldn’t find its way out.

She entered the potting shed and realized it was a beautiful Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly!!! A month ago she performed a caterpillar rescue for a friend who had run out of the Pipevine host plant. The caterpillars that had already grown in her garden had eaten the plant to the ground. My friend brought home about 20 caterpillars in a butterfly cage.

Well …. one of the caterpillars had found its way into her potting shed and pupated in there, had recently emerged from its chrysalis in there, and was stuck!! She gently captured him and let him out and he happily flew away. In any event … she felt relieved to know that he had been protected from the spraying and it was encouraging to see this specimen of nature’s lifeblood on such a sad and depressing day!!

**So, How Paranoid is She? You Decide**

They sprayed Duet™ from Clarke Mosquito Control. The Clarke website and product label describe Duet™ as:

“A quick knockdown oil soluble synergized synthetic pyrethroid for effective control of adult mosquitoes, gnats, biting and non-biting midges, and black flies in outdoor residential and recreational areas.”

“Duet™, an advanced dual-action mosquito adulticide, combines the proven efficacy of Sumithrin® (the active ingredient found in Anvil®) plus the exceptional knockdown of Prallethrin. Together, these two active ingredients provide you a unique, effective and faster way to control mosquitoes.”

“The active ingredients in Duet™ are photolabile. The molecules easily decompose in the presence of sunlight. The half-lives of Sumithrin and prallethrin in water in the presence of light range from 9.1 to 13.9 hours. The degradation products of Sumithrin and prallethrin are non-persistent. Moderately rapid aerobic and anaerobic soil degradation was found in the absence of sunlight.”

“Duet’s active ingredients break down rapidly in sunlight into carbon dioxide and water vapor.”
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“This product is toxic to aquatic organisms, including fish and aquatic invertebrates. Runoff from treated areas or deposition of spray droplets into a body of water may be hazardous to fish and aquatic invertebrates. Do not apply over bodies of water . . . except when necessary to target areas where adult mosquitoes are present, and weather conditions will facilitate movement of applied material beyond the body of water in order to minimize incidental deposition into the water body.”

“This product is toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply to or allow drift onto blooming crops or weeds when bees are visiting the treatment area”.


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**How does this story turn out?**

Day 3 - Sunday,

After a storm and the heavy winds and rain Saturday night, it is a gorgeous morning out in the garden. The Encores are starting to rebloom and the various Salvias, already pruned back for their fall bloom are putting out buds with a sneak peek at some hot pink blooms already.

She added more stress coat to the pond Saturday night and the Koi and tadpoles still appear to be unaffected and are doing fine

Still no bees, gnats, dragonflies, or butterflies (other than the Pipevine Swallowtail she rescued from the potting shed on Saturday). She observed one Honey Bee nectaring on Henry Duhelberg Salvia in the butterfly garden - probably the same lone bee she saw yesterday.

Still, no birds throughout the neighborhood. Also, no Anoles or Geckos out last night. And no toads out last night either!! It's mating season for the toads so she has been gently croaked to sleep at night the past week or so. When it's not mating season, the toads are about, but no croaking, just enjoying the pond, eating their fill of insects.

It's also squirrel nesting season and she does have one young male squirrel, chewing the tender branches of the Crab Apple and Possum Haw tree limbs to collect for nest-making. But the activity, and the mess he leaves behind, has significantly decreased.

The dragonflies finally started to return Sunday evening. Around 4 pm she had 6 or 7 flitting around and she heard 1 or 2 birds chirp out front and saw 1 sitting on the telephone wire. But still no bees or butterflies or flies yet. It's possible the spraying didn't kill them but caused them to stay away.

Oh, no!! The city is doing a 2nd spraying Sunday night beginning at 8:30 pm. This time she'll be prepared!! She already put the netting down over the pond, the waterfall and the entire length of the stream. At around 7 pm she'll add the plastic tarps and remove in the morning.
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My friend was happy to see dragonflies starting to come back! She felt confident things will return to normal soon. The last couple of days have been surprisingly emotional for her. She didn't realize how much her gardens and the wildlife really meant to her. She took it for granted, and she believes she will be a much better steward from now on.

Day 4 - Monday
She was happy to note that the effect of the second spraying did not seem to be as drastic as the first. No activity early this morning, but she removed the plastic and left the netting (in case she needed to put the plastic back).

This afternoon, 2 dragonflies try to negotiate the pond netting and 2 honey bees and 1 Blue Jay are in the garden.

She noticed that the plastic had a slightly sticky residue on it as she removed it. Is that a residue from the spraying or just something that naturally forms in the environment?

Day 5 - Tuesday
Whew! The spraying is finally done!! The plastic pond coverings are in the garbage and Joanne awaits the return of critters in the garden. Only 2 or 3 bees and 2 dragonflies today so far. Monday night around midnight, she did see one large toad. It was great to see him!!

No birds, etc. again, and sadly, no butterflies since the spraying began. She begins cleaning the garden foliage and hopes that any feeding insects are not affected by any remaining residue, if present.

Epilogue
Spraying is starting again – for the Zika Virus. I haven’t checked, but I suspect they are still spraying Duet spray. The label reads about as safe to use as we can hope. It is a concern for aquatic life and bees if care is not taken.

Would you cover your pond, given the warnings on the Duet label? That 9 to 14 hour half-life in water in daylight could result in significant amounts of the chemical hanging around for 2 or 3 days. Given a second spraying, significant amounts of the chemical could hang around for almost a week.

They spray at about dusk when most of the daytime animals, birds, and insects have gone to bed and the nighttime animals, birds, and insects aren’t up and around yet. At dusk, mosquitoes are out and about, feeding on us.

I understand that we should have faith that our city officials do the right thing. But if you have as much invested in your landscape as my friend, wouldn’t you have preferred to have been able to research the chemical yourself – and had enough advanced warning to make preparations (even if you might appear to be a little paranoid)?

I received an email recently. A friend was at a garden show and there was a guy selling mosquito misters. When asked if it killed all insects, he happily replied “Yes, even bees and wasps”. Are you horrified, too?

Here is the link to Center for Disease and Control - http://www.cdc.gov/zika/

Also, an interview with Texas entomologist Mike Quinn: http://kxan.com/2016/02/05/rain-could-bring-early-mosquito-season/.
Rain Barrel Available - Free

A NPSOT member is moving and the new home will not accommodate a rain collection barrel. If any member would like to have it, along with the apparatus to hook it up to a down spout, it is available for free. All you have to do is come and pick it up. If you are interested, contact John Worley (collincountynpsot@gmail.com).

Quote of the Day

“A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, conn a ship, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently, die gallantly.

Specialization is for insects.”

Lazarus Long in *Time Enough For Love*, by Robert A Heinlein

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 before 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/](https://npsot.org/wp/collincounty/)