No Monthly Meeting in November or December

We do not hold general meetings in November and December. We’ll meet you back at the usual time (7pm) in the usual place (Laughlin Hall at the Heard) on January 3rd.

Carrie Dubberley, instructor for the Native Landscaping Certification Program (NLCP), program will explain the program outline to us, and how its four parts are related, then begin teaching the curriculum to the group. We may cover other parts of the program in future months.

Potluck Dinner

The 2016 Collin County NPSOT chapter Potluck Dinner is at the home of Tony Manasseri and his wife Mary Ann Lynch on Sunday, Oct. 30, at 5pm.

Weather permitting, we will have a stroll around Tony’s fascinating organic farm and then settle in for a potluck dinner. Bring whatever suits your fancy, and know that there are some awesome cooks in the ranks who always bring something fun to try. We never go home hungry. Iced tea and water will be provided.

If you choose to drink other beverages (wine, etc.), please bring your own with you, and enough to share with Tony and Mary Ann!

We may also plan to do some grass identification if you want to bring some grasses and try your hand at that.

Tony’s address is 6159 FM 543, McKinney.

Tony’s cell is 972-824-4916 if you need further info.

Directions:

From US75 north:
Take exit 43 (Laud Howell pkwy/FM543). Turn left under US75 and go 1.8 miles to the first STOP sign. Turn left from Trinity Falls Pkwy on to FM 543 at the STOP sign. Travel another 1.8 miles, thru a big "S" curve to our house on the left side of the road, behind a long white pipe fence.

From the west
Turn north on to FM1461 (Lake Forest Drive) off US380. At the curve (where FM1461 heads west), turn right (north) towards Myers Park. Take the next right after Myers Park on to FM168. At about two miles you will hit FM 543, turn right, our house is a couple hundred yards on the right. Mapping software should be OK if coming from the west.
Native Plant Week events: October 16th-22nd

by Carol Clark

Oak Point Walk 10/19:
A walk at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve is scheduled for October 19th, at 10 am. We meet in the lobby of the new building off Los Rios. Plan to arrive in time to register at the front desk, or even better register online before coming to the park. The city needs to keep track of how people use the facilities, including the nature walks and wild spaces. Your name on a list of people that can be counted may make a difference in future park use plans and preservation decisions by city planners. Please wear sturdy shoes, and long pants are strongly recommended. Carol Clark will lead the walk through seldom seen areas of the park with good prairie remnants and great prairie plants. Orchids and Monarchs are strong possibilities for this month’s walk.

Heard Garden Work Day, FRIDAY, October 21st, 9 am:
I have planned a weekday workday for this month, since our usual workday and field trip conflict. That will still leave us with one more needed makeup workday sometime soon, to account for the one we had to cancel in September. I’ll be there at 9 am on the 21st. Remember, these are garden workdays that we give the Heard in exchange for them letting us meet in their facilities. We have had a good relationship in the past, and I want to maintain that good relationship going forward. Let’s remember to show our appreciation in action with these workdays. Call 972 390-2882 if you need more information or want to be able to do garden work at a different time.

Field trip, October 22nd.
We have planned a field trip to Clark Haven Farms in Callisburg on Saturday, October 22nd, starting at 9 am. Clark Haven is a 37 acre wildlife refuge, with many native plants and an incomplete plant list that is already over 340 plants.

We’ll be walking in un-manicured spaces over rough ground, so sturdy shoes and long pants are highly recommended. This is your chance to experience fall native grasses at their most identifiable best in a natural setting. The Indian Grass will be over our heads in places. Rich Jaynes is going to be there helping us identify and understand the grasses.

If you plan to come, please let Carol know via phone or email at 972 390-2882, or carol@r-d-clark.com. She’ll send a complete set of directions to the farm to those planning to come. Plan on an hour’s travel time from the Heard.

In other Oak Point news:
Plant rescues are ongoing in portions of Oak Point Park slated for development soon. Please call Carol Clark at 972 390-2882 if you want to help on a rescue dig or with seed collection, or just need more information, and we’ll schedule something you can do. The timing on this is pretty flexible—right up until construction starts. These plants are slated to be gone by the end of 2016, with the exact timing unknown, so we must act soon if we plan to rescue the prairie plants and pick the seeds. Many of the plants there have excellent chances of transplanting successfully. This can be surprisingly light work, depending on how you choose to help. The plants can be used at other restoration sites, or returned to the park in other areas.
Plant Stakes
We still have packages of those wonderful, durable native plant marker stakes available at $15 per package of five stakes. Contact Betsy Farris or Carol Clark to purchase stakes in time for holiday giving.

New fundraiser
We are also asking members to collect native plant seeds from their own landscapes or with appropriate permission from other places (most city park lands prohibit collecting), for use in next year’s fundraising project. Please carefully label all seeds and store them dry in paper bags until we can organize this project. You can bring your seeds to the Potluck, or to the January meeting, or the October 22nd field trip. If you have questions, please call Carol at 972 390-2882.

Heard Seeds:
The Heard is looking for volunteers to help gather seeds from plants on the Heard property, to be distributed to other parts of the property. Please email Parviz, the sanctuary manager, for details at: pshakeri@heardmuseum.org. This is a project you can help with on your own schedule.

One more thing!
The Heard is working on a wetland planting restoration project and another planting project, and they desperately need people who can help with the work.

Parviz would like us to keep track of how many hours Native Plant Society people work on this project and the seed collection project. It helps future grant writers explain who is providing volunteer labor for projects. Please keep track of your own hours and then go ahead and report them to Carol for aggregation and so she can write the needed report for Parviz. Coordinate the timing of your hours with Parviz directly.

Here is Parviz’s request:
In reference to our conversation about required volunteer services for our Wetland Improvement Project, I have prepared the following table. It would be great if you could kindly help us to find some volunteers to accomplish our project goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Volunteer Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physically removing the dead roots and organic materials from Bullfrog pond’s edge</td>
<td>October – November</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting 32 trees (Green Ash) in the wetland area (including loading and unloading, digging the holes for 32 trees, planting 32 trees)</td>
<td>Late October - November</td>
<td>80-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting native plants on the sides of the pond (at least 20 pots of native marginal plants) and installing metal nets around the plants</td>
<td>November-December</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removing invasive plants including Parrot Feather at the pond and adjacent areas (manually)</td>
<td>December-February</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacing the old fencing and installing beaver enclosure on 200 trees</td>
<td>November – December</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parviz Shakeri
Sanctuary Manager
Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary
1 Nature Pl, McKinney, TX 75069
972-562-5566 x238
pshakeri@heardmuseum.org
Year-end donations

We want to remind you as you plan your charitable giving for the year that a donation to the Native Plant Society of Texas’ Collin County chapter is tax deductible and very much appreciated. Betsy Farris, our treasurer, will be happy to supply you with a donation receipt.

Just Because

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of talking about native plant gardening all day today with about 250 Plano Senior High kids. I spent the ride home fairly pleased, but also wondering if anything we do as native plant advocates really makes a concrete difference.

As I pulled up to the curb in front of my house, sort of brain-fried and tired, I noticed a lot of movement in my front “yarden”. As soon as I got out of the car I was assaulted by the sweet scents of my blooming natives and the sight of a dozen Monarch butterflies, all clamoring for space on my Tall Goldenrod. Not only were there Monarchs in this small suburban garden, but there were also hundreds of bees, wasps, flower flies, and other pollinators all jockeying for position among the blooms.

Does what we do matter? Yes it does. To these pollinators-- finding an un-poisoned safe haven in my yard-- this small space makes all the difference in the world.

Thank you all for your many and varied contributions to the life of our Native Plant Society chapter this past year, and remember—Keep planting the good stuff!

May All Your Weeds Be Wildflowers,
Carol Clark,
Collin County chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
972 390-2882