Our Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 pm

The September NPSOT meeting will be our annual Show and Tell. This is a slide show containing plant and garden photos taken by members: from our yard or neighborhood, from nature hikes, from conventions or other travels, and from vacations.

Send your pictures via email to John Worley at the address from the newsletter email or to worljm@yahoo.com. Or, you can bring them early to the meeting. I will have my laptop and we will figure out how to download them from your device.

The meeting will be held in Laughlin Hall at the Heard Museum. Doors open about 6:30. The program starts at 7:15.

Heard 3rd Saturday Program, September 16th

The Third Saturday program at the Heard on September, September 16th, is a walking tour to go see fall plants out on the Heard Sanctuary. It starts at Laughlin Hall promptly at 9:30 am, and runs until about 11.

Carol would like to find another person or two to help lead this. Anyone familiar with fall plants at any part of the Heard Museum is welcome to take a group on a separate tour or just assist with a group. Call 972 390-2882 if you plan to help.

Heard 4th Saturday Workday, September 23rd

Carol will be out of town running a different event, so Bill Woodfin will head up the garden work. Work begins at 9 am. Meet in the front garden outside the museum, and bring gloves and any tools you like to work with. If you don't have tools, come anyway and use the Heard's tools.
Proposed Slate of Officers

This is the proposed slate of officers. We will vote on them at the meeting.

- Lorelei Stierlen—President
- Carol Clark—Past President, Ways and Means
- Betsy Farris—Treasurer
- Rodney Thomas—Vice President
- John Worley—Secretary, Newsletter
- Bill Woodfin and Carrie Dubberly—Programs
- Open position—Webmaster

Important Reminder

Keep gathering native plant seeds from your landscapes so we can put together some new native seed pack mixes to sell this year. They were a successful fundraiser last year, and will be our primary fundraiser in the coming year—sold at various meetings, speaking engagements, plant sales, outreach booths, etc.

Gardening Scholarship

The Plano Garden Club needs your help in locating students for scholarship recipients. We give three $2000 scholarships per year. The national, state and local garden club organizations have the same requirements and required paperwork, so students are eligible for quite a bit of help.

The students must be sophomore level or above, be a resident of Collin County, have at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA and be majoring in a field relating to horticulture. This includes the following majors:

- Agronomy
- Floriculture
- Landscape Design
- Biology
- Wildlife Science
- Plant Pathology/Science
- Environmental Concerns
- Land Management, and/or
- Agriculture Education
- Horticulture
- Botany
- Forestry
- City (Rural & Urban) Planning
- Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology
- Environmental Conservation
- Other related or allied subjects.

As a retired faculty member, I realized how precious your time is. But I also know how important it is for you to see students succeed. One of the major problems for students is the amount of debt acquired during college. Would you please place the attached information sheet so eligible students in your area will see it?

Thank you,
Lynda McKay
Scholarship Committee
Plano Garden Club
admin@landcan.org
Clymer Meadow Preserve - Tallgrass Tour

When: September 23, 2017 @ 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Where: Clymer Meadow Preserve
        4318 FM1562  Celeste, TX 75423

Join a tour of Clymer Meadow Preserve, enjoying the late summer blooms, including some of Texas’ true tall grasses. This 1,400-acre preserve contains one of the last remnants of the Blackland prairie.

The tour will bring up close and personal different types of rare prairieland and a variety of rare plants. Cameras, sun and insect protection, hat, long pants, hiking boots, bottled water and sack lunch are all recommended. Bring the whole family!

RSVP to brandon.belcher@tnc.org or 903-752-0676 (c) by September 18. Space is limited.


Monarch Waystations of North Texas

Meets: Saturday 09-16-2017 1:00pm - 2:30pm Meeting Room C –
        Oak Point Park Nature & Retreat Center
Fees: - Resident $9.00 - Non-Resident $13.00
      - FAP $4.50
      - Senior Resident $8.10 - Senior Non-Resident $12.10

Children of all ages will enjoy learning about these beautiful traveling butterflies and their cycle of life. Learn about what kinds of plants are needed in a Monarch Waystation as well as journey around Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve to watch some of these fluttering friends dance in the wildflowers. Grab some sunscreen, bug spray, and your water bottle then join us for this educational experience. Children 12 years and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult.

To register for this course, go to:
https://parks.planotx.org/econnect/Activities/ActivitiesAdvSearch.asp

The Nature of Oak Point Park Guided Walk

Location: Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve in Plano
Date/Time:
    Wed 10:00am - 11:30am 09-13-2017, or
    Wed 10:00am - 11:30am 09-20-2017, or
    Wed 10:00am - 11:30am 10-11-2017, or
    Wed 10:00am - 11:30am 10-18-2017, or
    Wed 10:00am - 11:30am 11-08-2017, or
    Wed 10:00am - 11:30am 11-15-2017, or
    Wed 10:00am - 11:30am 12-13-2017, or
    Wed 10:00am - 11:30am 12-20-2017

Carol Clark leads these enjoyable and informative walks through the fields of wildflowers of Oak Point Park in Plano.
Historic Uses of North Texas Plants

On October 28th at 9 am, there is a special program at Oak Point Park called *Historic Uses of North Texas Plants--Part Two*. Carol Clark will present a PowerPoint program followed by a walk. (Of course, participants can choose to skip the walk and stay in the air conditioning!)

Arbor Hills Fall Adventure

- Saturday, October 7, 2017 8:30am - 10:00am
- Saturday, November 4, 2017 8:30am - 10:00am
- Saturday, December 2, 2017 8:30am - 10:00am

Heard Museum – Monarch Presentation

Sunday, October 1 at 1:00 pm at the Heard Museum

Discover more about our state butterfly, the Monarch, their migration pattern, life cycle & how you can help protect their habitat.

Designed primarily for adults. Interested youth may attend with an adult. May not be suitable for children younger than 10 years. The talk is led by Melanie Schuchart, one of our key butterfly volunteers. The presentation will last about an hour followed by a walk through the butterfly house and garden.

This is part of the Heard 50th Birthday Party celebration and is included in general admission and free for Heard Museum members. No preregistration required

Newcomer’s Guide to Gardening in North Texas

See the flyer below. Sign up at: http://www.mckinneytexas.org/164/Education-Public-Outreach

This and That

By Melanie Schuchart

The Texas Pollinator Blitz is coming September 23rd to October 8th. This is a great time for people to practice iNaturalist ID skills for those during these 2 weeks. For more information: https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz

White Mistflower draws some nice creatures this time of year. Here is a Great Purple Hairstreak that I photographed yesterday at the Heard: http://www.inaturalist.org/observations/7734768

We have added additional information for butterflies on the Heard home page including nectar and host plants and I would love feedback on it from all or just to share wider. http://www.heardmuseum.org/butterflies

It is at this link and then click on link: http://www.heardmuseum.org/butterflygardening
Mobility 2040 – A Plan We Need?

An Editorial by John Worley

Have you heard about what the Collin County Commissioners call Mobility 2040? It is a plan to build 5 large Freeways and/or major Thoroughfares in eastern Collin County. They believe that over 2.6M people will soon move into Collin County, mostly in the eastern half of the county. This is the plan they put together.

I am concerned about the entire plan, but here I want to focus on the area around the Heard. In the image below, I laid the proposed thoroughfares over a map of the area around the Heard. The Heard is the labeled (and outlined). The orange road at the very top is the new FM546 alignment. The large blue road is the proposed Spur 399 Extension – a 6-lane divided freeway with access roads (225’ Right of Way). The orange dot at the north end of the Heard is a major DART Train Depot. (Recall that the north end of the Heard is the pond/marsh area that is such a delicate ecosystem.)

The red road labeled “Operational Improvements” (on the left) is the proposed Western Corridor Thoroughfare. This road was originally budgeted by TxDOT as a Freeway, intended to take some of the load off US75. (Note how close the roadway comes to the shore of Lake Lavon in the image on the left.)
Collin County NPSOT Newsletter

Instead of a (Western Corridor) Freeway, the County wants to build a Lake Corridor Freeway running south between the arms of the lake and add a bridge from the tip of the peninsula, across Lake Lavon, into Wylie.

FM546 (the orange line above) construction is underway. The others are still in planning. The Collin County Department of Engineering tells me: “Don’t worry. The lines drawn are merely artist’s conceptions at this time. The roads could easily move miles either way by the time all is decided.”

I can’t say that comment made me feel any better! In fact, it made me a little sick to my stomach. On the other hand, the actual paths drawn are so horrible, that maybe a little movement is not a bad idea.

As drawn, the Lake Corridor Freeway Right of Way runs right through the center of 2 WalMart stores, a 7-11, a Popeye’s Chicken, a Burger King still under construction, an elementary school, a large Rehab Facility, a Volunteer Fire Department building, a city park, more than 30 acreages with homes, and 5 residential subdivisions. But, fear not; the drawn path manages to avoid 100% of the tracts owned by developers, who just happen to be waiting for a bridge to come to the Peninsula so they can start their developments. (I should mention here that these developers have already tried to convince the County to build a bridge to the Peninsula on 2 previous occasions.)

The justification for all this construction is the population growth project by Collin County. (3.4M people; Plano – 300,000; McKinney, Farmersville, and Celina – all 400,000 each. Collin County will have more people than Dallas County!). However, neither the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) nor the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) makes such drastic population explosion projections.

All of the roads will bring light, noise, and air pollution to the homes and lifestyles of many residents of eastern Collin County. All of the roads will negatively impact some delicate ecosystems.

The project is called “Mobility 2040”. There is information available on the Collin County website and the NCTCOG website, if you want more information.

Editorial by John Worley
Our Annual Pot Luck Supper

Our annual Pot Luck Supper is scheduled for Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 5pm at Fran and William Woodfin’s home, located at 4696 County RD #412, McKinney, TX 75071.

We’ll still be in Daylight Savings Time, so we can poke around a while before we plan on eating around 6pm. Bring a food dish, snack, dessert, or drinks and come on out!

The Woodfin’s live northeast of McKinney. (The star below is US380 and SH5.) If you came to the Stiff Creek Nature Walk in May, you visited their home.

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 7:00pm and the program starts at 7:15pm.

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: http://www.npsot.org/CollinCounty/