**NPSOT Meeting on January 7**

The January 7, 2020 meeting will be a discussion on "Plant Propagation" by Bill Freiheit from Ft. Worth. Bill is one of our growers for the Heard Plant Sale and has grown a number of hard to find native species for us. He should be bringing some interesting plants to the meeting.

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

**NPSOT Meeting on February 4**

For our February 4, 2020 meeting, we have Brandon Belcher of the Nature Conservancy TX coming back, this time to speak on “Erosion Control and the Impacts it has on Restorations”.

Brandon is a dynamic speaker.

**NLCP Class a Success**

We hosted a Native Landscape Certification Program Class 2 on October 26 at the Heard Technology Center. There was a huge turnout and all seemed to enjoy themselves and learn a lot.

**The Garden Show 2020**

**Coming Up in March**

The Collin County Master Gardeners Association 2020 The Garden Show is coming soon. Our NPSOT chapter will again share a booth with Monarch Watch.

- Saturday, March 14 — 9:00 am TO 5:00 pm
- Sunday, March 15 — 11:00 am TO 5:00 pm
- In the Show Barn at Myers Park & Event Center in McKinney

There will be educational and hands-on presentations, over 70 local vendors, speakers and entertainment, and tours of the Earth-Kind® Research and Demonstration Gardens.

In our booth, we will be answering questions, recommending the use of native plants in our landscapes, and selling our seed packs. So, if you have been gathering native plant seeds, be prepared to bring them in, and help make up the seed packs. They are always a big hit at the show, and are our primary source of money to support our chapter.
Greetings! 2019 was another great year for the Collin County chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. I want to thank each and every one of you for making my second year as President even better than the first. It is the dedication and passion of this chapter’s members that continues to move us forward, and helps us promote our unique Blackland plant heritage.

This year members continued their dedication to raising awareness, reaching out to the public to share the beauty of native plants—speaking to garden clubs and school groups, helping design school gardens, leading plant walks in local prairies and woodlands, and assisting in conservation efforts in public spaces. We have continued to pick and package native prairie seeds for sale as well as donation to restoration projects — our beautiful native flora continues to spread, helping pollinators as well as humans. We’ve continued the tradition of members donating their time to provide consulting services to cities, HOAs and private landowners who continue to combat and counteract the loss of our native flora.

This year we’ve been able to use our funds to sponsor Doug Tallamy as a speaker at the 2nd Annual Native Plant Symposium, help Sherry Fabricant’s Bring Back the Monarchs project become reality, and allow the Heard to hire the best replacement for their horticulturalist position. We’ve shared our passion for this amazing prairie with any and all. We’ve rescued plants, encouraged restorations, taken part in biodiversity surveys, and sponsored/taught NLCP classes.

Once again, our Programs Chairpersons Carrie and Bill did an outstanding job with amazing speakers, and I can’t wait to see what the New Year brings! We do receive a small portion of your annual state dues, but rely on the generosity of our members and friends to help support the quality programming we are striving to provide.

I respectfully ask everyone to please remember the Native Plant Society of Texas’ Collin County chapter in your annual year end giving. Your donation enables us to provide quality speakers and field trips for you, and to help train the next generation of native plant enthusiasts. (Contributions of this type, above and beyond yearly dues, for which you receive no tangible goods or services, are 100% tax deductible.)

Make checks out to: Collin County NPSOT, and mail to our treasurer, Betsy Farris, here:
NPSOT c/o Betsy Farris
6015 Canyon Springs Rd
Dallas, Texas 75248

Also, please keep saving those native seeds! A main source of our income is from the sale of seed packets, and your contributions are invaluable!

Lorelei Stierlen, President Collin County Chapter of NPSOT
Photos from our Pot Luck Supper
My Life – on the Wild Side?

by John Worley

It’s the first weekend of November. Hopefully, this will be the last time I mow the yard for the season. My fenced backyard is about 6,000 sq. ft. But I am mowing for a reason – a reason that some of you might find disturbing.

You see, my aging, 100 pound German Shepherd, Remington, is somewhat of an omnivore. His current favorite snack is bees – honey bees as well as native bees – among other insects. This time of year, the wild Fall Aster in my yard are swarming with bees. Remy wanders around the backyard with his head down, looking for a snack. When he finds one, he gets excited and tries to bite it. He has gotten to where he can spear them on his teeth. If he misses, and the bee hides under the plant, he hops a little and paws at the plant to find the bee. He seems to catch more than he misses, but I fear that someday he’s going to get stung in the mouth.

To my knowledge, he has never been stung, but I worry about him as he gets older and slower. So today I mow the yard to get rid of the asters. But, don’t be concerned; there are more asters outside the back yard, away from Remy’s reach. The bees won’t starve.

As I watched him over the years, I have come to be sure that he can smell them out. If he stops to dig, he always finds a grub or two. Unfortunately, as the season progresses and grubs grow into June Bugs, over the years, he has grown to really enjoy eating June Bugs. Recently, he had such a feast on June Bugs that he overdosed and was really sick for over a week. I guess we’ll see if he learned his lesson next spring.

As the season progresses, he switches to bees. (I guess he’s an equal opportunity nosher.) So, today, I mow the lawn to get rid of the last of the flowers for the year. After finishing, I let Remy out, and he went around the yard to his check out his favorite snack locations. When he found nothing, he laid down under the tree, and pouted for quite a while, keeping his back to me.
Now to my next problem: our cat, Trinity. Twice recently, she has caught a gecko and brought it into bed to play with. Well, to be honest, the tail had come off the last one. She brought a wiggling tail to bed to play with on my stomach. As I woke up and realized what was happening, I made myself stop squealing like a little girl, got a tissue, grabbed the tail, found the rest of the gecko by the door and grabbed it, and flushed them away. Trinity was not happy with me and was very vocal about it.

It looks like that during this Holiday season I better try to make it up to them. But I certainly have no intention to go looking for Grub Worms, June Bugs, Bees, or Geckos.

Trinity likes things like granola bars, mixed nuts, and Oreo’s. Remington likes things like spicy chili and burritos. But I think I should stick to pet treats and toys.

ps: The bunches of wheat in my garden come from the straw mulch that I use on the vegetables and aisles. The combine misses some wheat grains and they sprout.

ps2: Did you know that squirrels and rabbits can fit through the weave in a chain link fence at a full speed run? Well, they can if Remy is chasing them. Twang! And they’re gone.

ps3: Before you ask: No, I also don’t think that my pets or I are exactly normal.

Native Plant Society of Texas – Collin County Chapter

Our Pollinator Garden Tour

We owe our hosts for the Pollinator Garden Tour on October 12 a big debt of gratitude. Our hosts were Lori Stierlen, Rodney Thomas, and Melanie Schuchart. It made for a great and memorable day.
Visions of Spring Yet to Come

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.

e-mail: collincountynpsot@gmail.com

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

John Worley

Native Plant Society of Texas – Collin County Chapter