

Hours

Monday-Saturday 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Sunday 1 - 5 P.M.

Closed for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's
Open until 3 P.M. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

Admissions

\$8 Adults

\$5 Children ages 3-12

Seniors, children under 3 and members are free

Trails

Trails are open only when the museum is open. Please check-in at the front desk by 4 P.M. Guided trails are available Saturdays at 1 P.M. and Sundays at 2 P.M. First come, first serve; weather permitting. Call 972.562.5566, ext. 237 to reserve a trail guide. Fees may apply.

Rental Facilities

Make your special occasion extraordinary! Our beautiful, peaceful natural habitat is the perfect place for dinners, meetings, corporate picnics, retreats, receptions, weddings and anniversaries. Call or email Apryl Semmer, Rentals Coordinator, for details and a tour. 469.450.4772 or asemmer@heardmuseum.org

Contact

972.562.5566/972.548.9119 (fax)

www.heardmuseum.org



1 Nature Place
McKinney, Texas 75069

Bird Nest Box Network

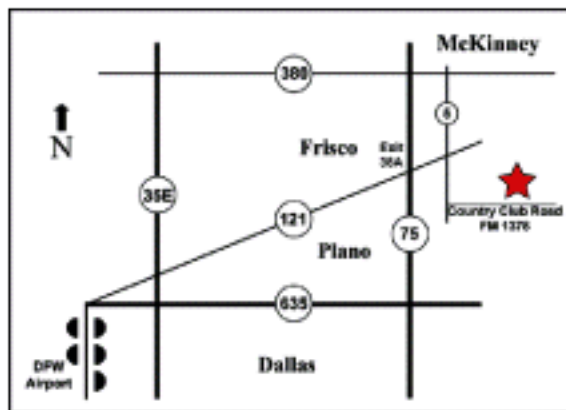
Trained volunteers conduct daily maintenance and monitoring of nesting boxes. Wood ducks, hooded merganser, prothonotary warbler, eastern bluebird, carolina wren, purple martin carolina chickadee and tufted titmouse nest regularly in Heard nest boxes. Eastern screech owls have also been seen nesting. The Heard is proud to be a part of Cornell University's "The Birdhouse Network" which uses real-time internet technology to observe and interpret the nesting behaviors of cavity-nesting birds and promote understanding of their breeding biology.

Visit www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse2nestboxcam/ or www.heardmuseum.org/go/birdbanding.html

Directions

Exit 38A off U.S. 75. Proceed east to SH 5.

The museum is one mile east of SH 5 on FM 1378.



Non-profit Organization
Postage Paid
Permit No. 242
McKinney, TX 75069



January/February 2007

HAVE YOU HEARD NEWS

Bringing nature and people together to discover, enjoy, experience, restore and preserve our priceless environment

The Heard Celebrates Dinosaurs Alive!

Since October 2006, the Heard has been buzzing with thousands of visitors as they come to see our first annual *Dinosaurs Alive!* exhibit. Visitors have had the chance to see and hear seven LIFE-SIZE carnivorous dinosaurs roar including the T-Rex, Megalosaurus and Deinonychus. Created by McKinney, Texas based Billings Productions, Inc., the dinosaurs have been featured at numerous zoos and museums across the nation including the Brevard Zoo in Melbourne, Florida, and the Fort Worth Zoo.



The dinosaurs are displayed along a half-mile, handicap accessible trail within the sanctuary. While admiring each dinosaur, guests get the opportunity to learn interesting facts. For example, did you know that the T-Rex had curved, serrated teeth longer than a human hand and that the slender Baryonyx had twice the amount of teeth in its lower jaw as it did in its upper jaw? Hear how they might have sounded and watch how they might have moved their heads and legs, but don't worry, they won't come a runnin'!

Education booklets give children the opportunity to learn and answer questions about the dinosaurs. Activities include a dinosaur word find, maze, coloring and fun facts including how to tell the difference between herbivores and carnivores. Children can also learn more about what might have happened to the dinosaurs.

The exhibit is presented by the Bessie Heard Foundation and sponsored in part by the McKinney Community Development Corporation. Other sponsors include Children's Medical Center Dallas, the Mark and Christie Armentrout Charitable Fund, the Tucker David Charitable Fund, Bank of America Private Bank, Turner Construction, the Valencia Family Charitable Fund and Primo Microphones.

- 2 The Wetlands are Back
- 3 Heard and MISD Partner
- 4 Nest Box Network



DISD Visits the Heard

The Harry W. Bass Foundation provided a grant to fund a program in which 1,800 Title I Dallas Independent School District students can be introduced to nature at the Heard and have a valuable, fun learning experience. Students enjoy an education class, a walk on the sanctuary and lunch. They also have the opportunity to see the *Dinosaurs Alive!* exhibit through January 28th.

Volunteer

The Heard Museum Volunteer Guild meets the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings provide volunteers with a chance to learn new skills, meet people and help with member, fundraising and education events. Contact the Heard if you would like to join or learn more.

Museum volunteer opportunities are available for trail guides, animal caretakers and other museum activities. It might provide a fun opportunity for your child to learn about responsibility.

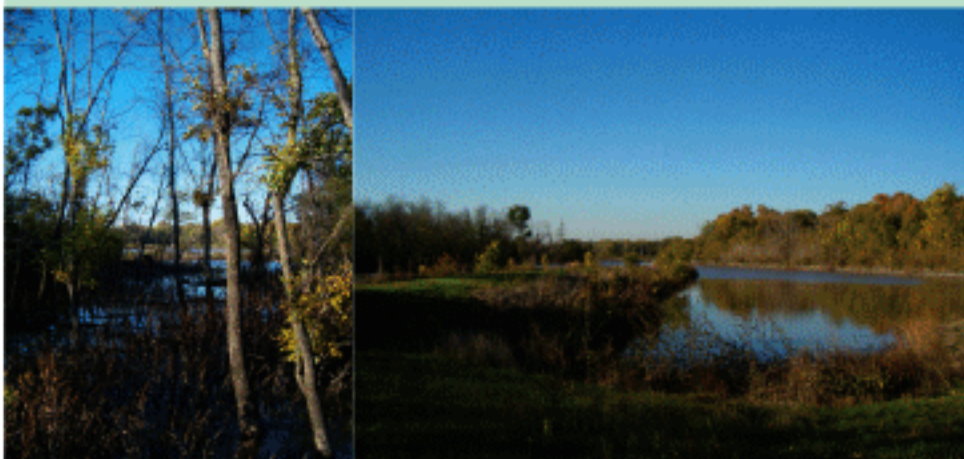
The Heard opened in 1967 and was a unique gift to Collin County from Miss Bessie Heard. Our 289-acre site features woods, prairies and wetlands. Tens of thousands of visitors come each year for a hands-on educational and inspirational museum and nature experience.

Heard Health: *The Wetlands are Back*

by Roger Sanderon, Wildlife Biologist

Due to last November's rainfall, The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary's beautiful wetlands are once again brimming with life-giving water after two seasons of drought. Many different species of ducks discovered it almost immediately. Mallards, buffleheads, gadwalls, shovelers and several wood ducks have been spotted enjoying the water. And, our brand new boardwalk that meanders throughout the wetlands is once again enticing birders and nature lovers to view the unique species of birds and other wildlife associated with this aquatic habitat. We will once again be able to band numerous species through our bird banding program.

The entire North Texas area has benefited from nice fall rains. They usually refill the Heard's reservoirs and ground water after the latest drought. Whether or not the Heard will receive enough rain to overcome the water level deficiencies of previous years remains to be seen, but already the rain amounts look very promising.



Early Years at the Heard with Dr. Harold Laughlin

by Amber Kaiser, Marketing & Communications

We had a special visitor in November. Dr. Harold Laughlin, the museum's first director, came to see the dinosaurs. Dr. Laughlin worked diligently at the museum for thirty-two years. His leadership, business expertise and love of nature and science carried the Heard through many successful years.

Dr. Laughlin was quick to laugh and reminisce as he observed the museum visitors. He was a biology professor at Southeastern Oklahoma State University when he discovered the museum director opportunity in the Dallas Morning News business section. "I traveled to the museum and met Miss Bessie," Dr. Laughlin said. "The opportunity was wonderful, and Miss Bessie and I became great friends." He also told a funny story of how Miss Bessie decided to build the museum. "Mr. John Ripley Forbes played an important role in her decision. Mr. Forbes had started more than 100 nature museums and centers across the country. He told her that if she took her collections and family money and built her own museum, he guaranteed she would live to be 100. Years later, Mr. Forbes was the keynote speaker at Miss Bessie's 100th birthday party and proudly told her, 'Miss Bessie, you have made me an honest man.'"

Dr. Laughlin took great pride in the responsibility he had at the Heard. He enjoyed giving nature hikes, finding unique plants and animals throughout the sanctuary, interacting with visitors and teaching children about the importance of science and nature. He had found a place where he loved what he did and strived to create a positive difference in people's view of nature. One of his favorite quotes by Stephen Jay Gould, American paleontologist and evolutionary biologist, encompasses the mission he had at the Heard: "We cannot win this battle to save species and environments without forging an emotional bond between ourselves and nature as well—for we will not fight to save what we do not love."



Left to right: Schelly Cory, Education & Volunteer Coordinator; Dr. Harold Laughlin; Michele Dudas, Lead Naturalist; Amber Kaiser, Marketing & Communications Director

Dinosaurs Alive! SPONSORS

Bessie Heard Foundation
Mark and Christie Armentrout
Charitable Fund
Tucker David Foundation
Valencia Family Charitable Fund



January Events February

Heard Museum Volunteer Guild Meeting
January 13th and February 14th, 10 A.M.

Dino Stomp
January 20th, 1 P.M.

Night Hike
January 13th, 6 P.M.

KLTY Radio Remote for Dinosaurs Alive!
January 13th, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Moppets Classes
Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-11 A.M.
For ages 3-5
Hiking, science, nature, animal education

The Heard Partners with McKinney ISD

We are excited to announce we have partnered with McKinney ISD. Nancy Cowlshaw with Partners in Education helped create the partnership.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to provide a place where McKinney ISD students can learn about and appreciate nature and wildlife. Students can benefit from our education programs; they will also have the opportunity to view permanent and temporary exhibits and walk on guided trails as they learn about nature including native plants and wildlife.



Left to right: Mark Armentrout, Interim Executive Director; Nancy Cowlshaw, Partners in Education Specialist; Amber Kaiser, Marketing & Communications Director



Heard of an ice flower? In December, numerous ice flowers formed on a frost weed plant near the museum entrance. Ice flowers form during freezing weather conditions when the ground is not already frozen. Sap in the stem expands, causing long, thin cracks to form along the length. Water is drawn through the cracks via capillary action and freezes upon contact with air. As more water is drawn through the cracks it pushes the ice layers further, causing a thin "petal" to form.