

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 Seniors and children ages 3-12
Members and children under 3 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.

Contact

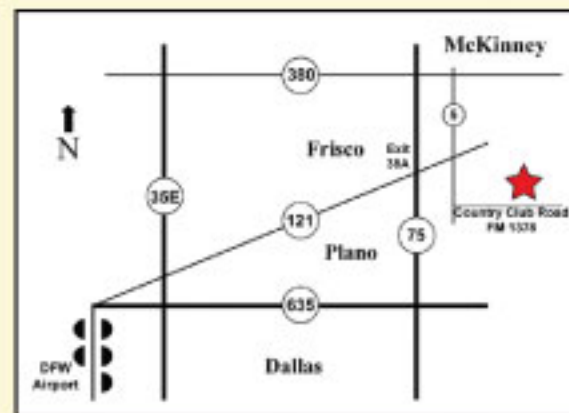
972.562.5566/972.548.9119 (fax)
www.heardmuseum.org

Rental Facilities

Make your special occasion extraordinary! Enjoy dinners, meetings, corporate picnics, retreats, birthdays, receptions, weddings and anniversaries in a beautiful setting. Call or email Brandy Bundy, Rentals Coordinator, for details and a tour. 469.450.4772 or bbundy@heardmuseum.org

Directions

Exit 38A off U.S. 75. Proceed east to SH 5.
The museum is one mile east of SH 5 on FM 1378.



March/April 2007

HAVE YOU HEARD NEWS

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

A Peek Behind *Dinosaurs Alive!*

by Amber Kaiser, Marketing & Communications Director

Where the prehistoric past comes to life—that is the passion Larry and Sandra Billings have behind their life-size animatronic dinosaur creations. With their company, Billings Productions, Inc., they are dedicated to nature, animal and wildlife education and use their amazing creations as an exciting and fun vehicle to bring awareness to the public about our impact on nature and what we can do to make it positive.



Creating the dinosaurs provides a fun way for Larry and Sandra to educate and entertain children and adults alike. Their dinosaurs have been feature exhibits at zoos and museums throughout the nation and other countries including the Fort Worth Zoo, Brevard Zoo in Florida and the Milwaukee County Zoo. Their next steps include returning to the Brevard Zoo and exhibiting at Moody Gardens in Galveston. Due to their popularity and word-of-mouth recommendations, Larry and Sandra stay busy without any paid advertising!

Since starting their McKinney-based business in 2003, Larry and Sandra have created more than eighty life-size animatronic dinosaurs and add new species every year. They also have an exciting new endeavor as they plan to create a giant insect show and a prehistoric bird exhibit. They would like to capture another part of history and captivate people with the realization of the importance of our responsibility to protect and nurture animal survival.

When asked about their favorite dinosaur, Larry and Sandra agree that the Megalosaurus is their favorite. It is a fun, festive, blue and white carnivore with a friendly façade that grabs people's attention; it is an accurate reflection of Larry and Sandra's passion for nature education as well as their friendly demeanor. They even have plans to create Megalosaurus shirts in addition to other store items associated with their unique dinosaurs.

We are grateful to Larry and Sandra for giving us the opportunity to exhibit the product of their creativity. Due to the spectacular success of our first dinosaur exhibit attracting more than 30,000 visitors, we plan to work with them later this year as we host a second exhibit with different dinosaurs including a long neck and triceratops. To learn more about Billings Productions, Inc. and to see their impressive array of dinosaurs and clientele, visit www.billingsproductions.com. We look forward to continuing to work with Larry and Sandra to support their business as they support the Heard and provide an important, fun nature and animal education opportunity for the public.

2 Restoration Donations

3A Celebrating Life

3B Sign-up for Summer Camps

The Heard Green Living Family Festival

CELEBRATE the start of spring at the Heard! Enjoy green living tips, business vendors, nature trails and exhibits. Bring re-useable goods to our Goodwill collection site; participate in a blood drive hosted by Carter BloodCare. Kids will enjoy a petting zoo, crafts, bounce house and interactive presentations by FastrackKids.

CHECK OUT green conscious businesses like IESI, Texas Pure Products, North Texas Municipal Water District, McKinney Sam's Club, McKinney Courier-Gazette, Wells Brothers Farm Store, Benjamin Franklin Plumbing, CCCC, our own Habitat Consultancy group and many more!

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.

Shop for you and the Heard Help support the Heard by shopping at Kroger or Tom Thumb. A percentage of qualifying purchases will be donated to the museum. Contact the Heard for details.

To learn about Heard History and Miss Bessie Heard feel free to check the Heard website, visit, or give us a call.



Chuck Jones
Disking up an area to prepare for planting

The Heard Museum's wildlife sanctuary is always being improved thanks to volunteers, donations, grants and staff; and currently, there are various habitat restoration and enhancement projects under way.

Moderately-sized bare dirt areas have been prepped and are being seeded with native grasses and wildflower seeds. This restoration was made possible by a generous \$2,000 donation from the local *Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society*.

Portions of the sanctuary are riddled with circular scars caused by past brush pile burns. We are now doing our best to minimize burning brush and are presently mulching and recycling it into the native plant garden.

In Ken's prairie, we have been cutting back monoculture cedars to expand the prairie. We have also been hand pulling small cedars from the established prairie using a tree wrench. Cedar removal and mulching has been made possible due to the *Collin County Sheriff Office SCORE* program.

The Heard is also studying planting native seeds using hydromulching. This is being done in East Bullfrog Pond Prairie and Ken's Prairie. We are evaluating how well native grass germinates using this application method. We plan to present the results at the next *Society of Ecological Restoration* conference. The hydromulching service is being donated by *Hydromulch Services*.

The levees surrounding the wetlands are also getting a new face lift. For two seasons, we have done our best to remove exotic Johnson grass and are now planting native grasses, primarily switch grass, prairie cord grass and eastern gamagrass. Most of the planting was done by *REI*, *Starbucks* and *SCA* (Student Conservation Association).

Another addition which will enhance future restoration of the Heard property is a grass growing facility. This facility is being funded by *REI* and will allow us to grow thousands of grass plugs each season. Every fall we hope to incorporate these plugs into the sanctuary with the help of volunteers.

These restoration projects were made possible with the help of donations and volunteers including students, corporations, churches, families, colleges and community service workers. I would like to thank them and everyone else who provided the labor, materials and funds in 2006 including *Boy Scouts of America*, *Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society*, *Collin County Sheriff Office SCORE* program, *Hydromulch Services*, *REI*, *Starbucks* and *SCA*.

Heard Health: Restoration Donations

by Chuck Jones, Sanctuary Manager



Hydromulch Services
Applying native seeds using hydromulch

Celebrating Tom McDonald and Debbie Sedgwick

Tom McDonald and Debbie Sedgwick each contributed to the Heard in their own special way. Debbie managed the museum store and always made sure visitors were happy and enjoyed their time; Tom created beautiful wood work and made sure the museum facilities were running as they should. The staff always enjoyed their company and conversations. Guests experienced their hard work everyday. They are dearly missed even though we know they are watching over us. They have left heart prints everywhere.

Tom McDonald came to the museum in 2004. He immediately got the staff fired up about his project ideas and used every working minute he had to make those projects a reality. He was masterful with wood and created wonderful bridges and decks and walkways. Everyday, he was the first to ask about the staff's needs and made sure they were addressed. In addition to his carpentry and handy skills, Tom had a tremendous love of music and brought out the music lover in everyone. If he could have arranged it, he would have started a rock'n roll band. He was also a brilliant writer. He had a keen insight into others, was never judgemental and had a respectful love for children. His love of literature was passed to children and adults alike. His craftful hand prints will always be in every nook and cranny of the Heard Museum.



Tom McDonald

Debbie Sedgwick

For sixteen years, Debbie Sedgwick was the face of the Heard Museum to so many people. She greeted everyone with a warm and welcoming smile and worked diligently to stock the store with unique items that complimented the museum and its mission as well as provided customers and staff with merchandise that benefited their nature interests. She also left a positive impression on customers and staff. Her smile and optimistic attitude were contagious; she loved life and her work at the Heard. To her, enjoying life was all about attitude. She encouraged artistic endeavors; she loved birds; she loved to fly a good kite. She encouraged others to nurture their talents and was passionate about the environment. Her tender-hearted spirit will always be treasured.



Heirloom: Leucanthemum

Plant Sales

In honor of the heirloom plant, we are having our **1st annual Heirloom Plant Sale!** Shop several varieties of antique roses from the *Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham* and wonderful bulbs like *hardy amaryllis*, *spider lilies* and *crinum*s. Pick old fashioned shrubs like *kerria*, *bridal wreath spirea* and *pomegranate* and perennials like *plume poppy*, *double daylilies* and *crocosmia*. **May 4-6**

Get ready for the **18th annual Spring Native Plant Sale!** Choose from hundreds of plants, trees, shrubs, grasses and ground covers, blubs, ferns, flowers, vines, cacti and herbs all suited for Texas weather.

Get expert advice to help you find the right plant for your yard and landscape.

April 13-15
Members only: **April 13, 4-7 P.M.**
Memberships available



Native: Copper Iris

UP-CLOSE

Heard Museum Volunteer Guild Meeting
March 14, 10 A.M.

18th Annual Native Plant Sale
April 13th-15

Green Living Family Festival
April 21-22, Earth Day

Moppets Classes
Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-11 A.M.
Ages 3-5
Hiking, science, nature, animal education
* Members only, 4-7 P.M.; Memberships available



Native:
Texas Lantana

March Events

April



Heirloom:
Alcea

AT-A-GLANCE

Heirloom Plant Sale
May 4-6

Summer Camps
June 4-August 10

Texas Snakes Alive!
June 15-August 15

3rd Annual Fall Native Plant Sale
October 12th-14

2nd Annual Dinosaurs Alive!
October 19-January 26



Public registration
begins March 26th

Late registration
begins May 7th

Summer Camps at the Heard

Summer is almost here and with it comes our fun outdoor adventure camps for children ages 5-12! *Camp Coyote* and *Camp Bobcat* for ages 5-9 include wild topics such as *Scale Tales* and *Toad Rules* which study live snakes and salamanders, along with *Grossology* (nature's icky stuff like scat) and *Soggy Bottoms* where kids catch and release all kinds of aquatic critters. *Eco-Explorers*, for ages 10-12, has topics including *Skullduggery*, *Nature CSI*, *Wilderness Survival* (discovering poisonous plants and animals), *Aquatic Studies* and *Microscopy*.

Visit www.heardmuseum.org to see the camp schedule and to sign up early so your child can enjoy a real nature adventure this summer!

Registration forms are available on our website.

