

Nonprofit Organization  
Postage Paid  
Permit No. 242  
McKinney, TX 75069



1 Nature Place  
McKinney, Texas 75069

### 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 and New Year's Eve

### Admissions

\$8 Adults  
\$5 Seniors and children ages 3-12  
Members and children under 2 are free

### Trails

Trails are open only when the museum is open.  
Check in at the front desk by 4 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)  
heardmuseum.org

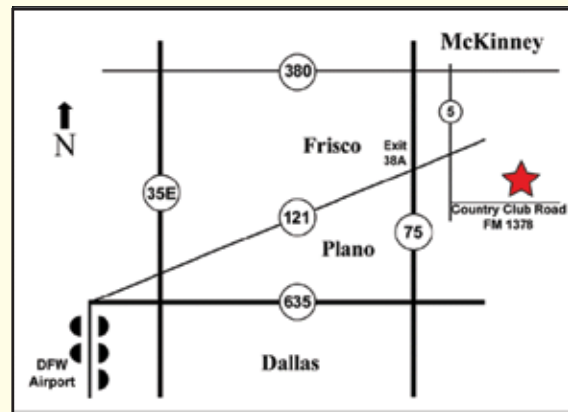
### Rental Facilities

Make your special occasion extraordinary! Enjoy dinners, retreats, birthdays, receptions, weddings, anniversaries and corporate events and meetings in a beautiful setting. For booking information and virtual tours, visit heardmuseum.org.

### Directions

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

Cover photo "Walthall Bridge" by Ronald Marabito



2 Homeschool & Preschool

3A New! Eco Adventures

3B Creature Feature

July/August/September 2009

# HAVE YOU HEARD NEWS

Bringing nature and people together

## Heard Summer Programs

Check out the Heard for fun education and nature exploration this summer!

Story Time Mondays at 2

Snake Feeding Wednesdays at 3

Kids Observation Station Fridays & Saturdays from 2-4

Guided Nature Trail Saturdays at 9:30

Animal Presentation Saturdays at 10:30

Live Raptor Presentation August 7 at 10:30



Kids love the live snake feedings

Visit [heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org) or call for pricing.  
Summer programs end Saturday, August 22.



Young volunteer watering plants

## Be a Heard Summer Volunteer

Volunteer opportunities are open for the Heard ropes course and the *Treasures from the Earth*, *Animals of the World* & *Native Texas Butterflies* exhibits. Kids & teens will learn about individual and team responsibility while getting valuable work experience.



## New Heard Museum Member Perk

Museum members can now get a behind-the-scenes tour to discover Heard history and to get an in-depth look at some of the current events & exhibits.  
Tours available 4 times a year. First tour:

Saturday, October 24th; 10-11 AM; RSVP ext. 237 Miss Bessie Heard with first preschool class, 1973

### EDUCATION

Summer Programs  
Now-August 22  
Fall Homeschool & Preschool Classes  
Sept 8 - Dec 10  
Register August 3  
Summer Camps  
Sign-up now!  
Through August 7

Fall Plant Sale  
October 10-11  
Members only:  
Oct 9, 4-7 PM

Night Hikes  
July 18, 8:30 PM  
Oct 17, 7 PM

Butterfly House  
Now Open

Treasures from the Earth  
Now Open

Dinosaurs Alive!  
Oct 1-Jan 31

## Volunteer

### Museum volunteer

Opportunities are available for trail guides, animal caretakers and other museum activities. This also provides a fun opportunity for your child to learn about responsibility.

### Shop for you and the Heard

Help support the Heard by shopping at Kroger, Tom Thumb, or use the shop-for-museums link on our website. A percentage of qualifying purchases will be donated; contact us for details.

Contact us or visit our website to learn about [Heard History](#) and [Miss Bessie Heard](#).

### Sign-up for our e-newsletter

at [heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org) to receive more articles and information about the Heard as well as event and program notices. Updates and special museum member e-vites are also sent via email so sign-up today!

## Heard Homeschool & Preschool Programs

September 8 - December 10



Guided nature trail

### Homeschool Classes

The Heard homeschool program began two decades ago to give homeschooled students an opportunity to immerse themselves in nature with hands-on projects. Today, the Heard homeschool program continues to be outstanding in nature education and curriculum.

### Who & When

Ages 5-12

Weekly, Tuesday or Thursday from 1-3

Registration starts August 3!

### Pre-school Classes

The Heard pre-school program gives youngsters the opportunity to explore nature in a safe way. This is usually the first classroom and nature experience that the participant has. Children gain awareness and learn expectations of how to treat animals and the environment. Most importantly, the pre-schoolers learn how to ask questions, an essential skill for all biologists and scientists. The earlier a child is introduced to nature, the better off they are for appreciating it.

### Who & When

Ages 3-5

Weekly, Tuesday or Thursday from 9:30-11:30

### Details & Registration

Steffanie Mann  
[smann@heardmuseum.org](mailto:smann@heardmuseum.org)  
ext. 237



Studying lab specimens

Visit [heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org) for [Scouting](#) & new [Observation Station Education](#) details!

## New Eco-Adventures Program

Opening Day on Saturday, September 26



Heard wetlands view from kayak

The Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary is excited to offer a new canoe and kayak program in fall 2009. Families, scouts and groups interested in professional development will have the opportunity to learn to canoe or kayak while experiencing nature's beauty. The paddle program is comparable to the traditional guided nature trails in that groups will travel throughout the sanctuary, while learning about the wetland habitat and the animals that inhabit it.

The goal of the paddle program, like all Heard programs, is to bring nature and people together. It is a great vehicle to introduce paddling while teaching ecology.

*"There is something about when you get people in a canoe or kayak on the water; they become much more aware of the environment," says Schelly Corry, education coordinator and paddle program director.*

The first hour of each three-hour session will be dedicated to learning strokes and safety. The remaining two hours will be spent in the canoes or kayaks traversing the wetlands. Eight hour classes and mixed boat tours may be available in 2010.



For pricing and updates, visit [heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org) or email Schelly Corry at [scorry@heardmuseum.org](mailto:scorry@heardmuseum.org)



Kayaking in the Heard wetlands

## Dinosaurs Alive! is back October 1

New theme: Scary! Watch our website for details.

## Special Exhibit Sponsors

*Treasures from the Earth  
Diamonds, Gold  
& Dinos*

### Category Sponsor

Randy Best

### Gallery Sponsors

Keith & Diane Brownlee

Jim & Judy Gibbs

Rob Lavinsky

### Collections provided by

"The Arkenstone"

Ron Coleman

Jim & Michelle Houran

Sponsor opportunities  
[acaceres@heardmuseum.org](mailto:acaceres@heardmuseum.org)

## SAVE THE DATES

### Treasures from the Earth

Open Now

### Beehive Exhibit

Open Now

### Animals of the World

Open Now

### Native Texas Butterfly House

Open Now

### Fall Plant Sale

October 9-11



Studying tree rings

### Ropes Course: Open to the Public Day

Watch our website for dates

### Summer & Fall Night Hikes

July 18, 8:30 PM; Oct 17, 7 PM

### Summer Camp Registrations NOW

Now - August 7

### Dinosaurs Alive! featuring 9 scary dinos

October 1 - January 31

### Halloween at the Heard

October 24

## Creature Feature: Patagonian Cavy (dolichotis patagona)

See [Mr. Nibbles](#)  
in our [Animals of the World](#) exhibit!

A member of the family Caviidae, the Patagonian Cavy, or Patagonian Mara, is related to the guinea pig. While its relative is small, the mara would hardly be able to fit in its cousin's cage. The cavy is actually the fourth largest rodent species in existence—behind capybaras, porcupines, and beavers—and can grow to 75 cm (over 2 ft) long and weigh 9-16 kg (19.8-35.2 lbs). They are very vocal and will make a variety of grunts, chirps, and squeaks. Cavies move by walking, galloping, hopping, or four-legged bouncing and are known to reach speeds of 29 kilometers per hour (18 mph). They are one of the few monogamous mammal species and may produce three to four litters of two young annually . . . to read more visit [heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org) and sign-up for our e-newsletter.

