

LRMN News

Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalist's Newsletter



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Bill Zech-resigned
due to health reasons

Vice-President

Lori Horne

Treasurer

Joanie Kochanek

Secretary

Sharon Lamoreaux

Advisor

Brock Fry

CHAPTER COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Programs

Lori Horne
Laura Clark

Fall Fest Booth

Brenda Marshall
Laura Clark
Sharon Lamoreaux

Siecke Signage

Laura Clark
Lori Horne
Sue Singletary
Sharon Lamoreaux
Brenda Marshall

Newsletter

Sharon Lamoreaux



Laura Clark, one of our LRMN Chapter members, presented a very interesting power point presentation featuring her beautiful photography and information about the butterflies and their host plants that are most common to our area. Sharon Lamoreaux showcased one of three hands-on activities that will be included in our Naturalist booth at the Fall Butterfly festival on October 20th in downtown Jasper.

(Look for the Fall Butterfly Festival article on page 5)

*The butterfly counts not months but moments,
and has time enough.*
Rabindanath Tagore



Georgia Purdy was the latest door prize winner. She received a beautiful Butterfly t-shirt.

Good for you, Georgia!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November—

- 7th—Head Start - Monarchs—Georgia Purdy, Sandi Brent
- 10th—Watson Preserve—Mushroom Walk led by David and Patricia Lewis—10am-12noon
- 10th—Ranger Snake Hike @MDJSP 10-11:30am, 1-2:30pm
- 10th—Living History Demonstrations at MDJSP with Bevil's Rangers
- 11th—Ranger Snake Hike @MDJSP 10-11:30am, 1-2:30pm
- 12th—Ranger Snake Hike @MDJSP 10-11:30am, 1-2:30pm
- 13th—Chapter meeting - **Yucca-the Plant and It's Purposes (Hands-on) Sharon Lamoreaux**
- 28th—Head Start - Owls—Georgia Purdy, Sandi Brent

December—

- 1st— Eagle Hike @ MDJSP 10am -11:30am
- 5th—Head Start - Tree Growth—Claire Boutte, Sandi Brent
- 6th—LRMN Board meeting— 1pm @ Agrilife office
- 11th—**Christmas Party— Gift Exchange—Bring something of or about Nature—Pot Luck**
- 13th—Friends of the Park Christmas party—Belle Jim, 6pm \$12.50 for meal, bring gift for exchange—\$25 max.

Question—would you be interested in participating in an Eagle Count in the Rayburn Lake area?

RSVP me - sherlmx@gmail.com

Way to Go!



Keith Stephens was honored at the Big Thicket Association's Annual Big Thicket Day. Keith received the Maxine Johnson Distinguished Service award.

Congratulations!



Dam 2 Dam 2018

On October 6th, several of our chapter members helped with the Saddle and Paddle event that was held at Martin Dies Jr. State Park. Phillip Hight, Janette Johnson, Robert Webb, Garry and Sharon Lamoreaux, Lori Horne, and Keith Stephens helped paddlers get on the river safely and were there when they arrived at their destination. Lanny and Brenda participated as kayakers opting for the longest route. Putting in at the Hwy 63 bridge on the Angelina River at 8:40 am, they wound their way down the river to Martin Dies Jr. State Park, coming ashore at 3:40 pm for a total of 16 miles!



Student Field Trip @ Martin Dies Jr. State



Seventh Graders from Huntington, Texas visited Martin Dies Jr. State Park on October 17th. Brenda and Lanny Marshall taught them about fishing in the park and its regulations. Robert Webb and Sylvia Holmes (Piney Woods Chapter) led them through Lake Dipping and Aquatic Plants. They learned to identify invertebrates using a dichotomous key (an invention of Aristotle).



Gerald Langham (Sabine Neches Chapter), Donald Fralick and Laura Clark (behind the camera) led the group on an Ecology Hike. They viewed the eagle's nest with Ranger Amy's spotting scope and learned about the web of life.

What a great way to spend a gray, misty day!

Article and photos submitted by Laura Clark

Educating our Future

Seasonal Changes in Nature presentations Warren Elementary School, Warren Texas

On September 21st, Longleaf Ridge chapter members, Lanny and Brenda Marshall, Robert Webb, and Donald Fralick met park ranger Amy Kocurek and park volunteer Sylvia Holmes at Warren Elementary to give presentations to 4th grade students at Warren, TX. Presentations were given on migration, winter adaptations, hibernation, and seasonal changes.



Teachers and students appreciated each of the presentations. The children especially enjoyed Lanny Marshall and his animal puppets which helped him present the topic of "hibernation", and the students enjoyed singing Lanny's hibernation song. It was a great opportunity for our chapter to do outreach. Even the adults not only enjoyed this opportunity, but they learned along with the students.

Article and photos submitted by Brenda Marshall



Would you like to be a part of this team of educational volunteers? Contact Ranger Amy Kocurek at Martin Dies Park @ 409-384-5231 to get on her contact list today. All these hours (prep and presentation) count as Service hours. This is our future.



Jasper's Fall Butterfly Festival



Although the day began with drizzling rain, the LRMN booth at the Jasper Fall Butterfly 2018 was a great success. With a committee led by Brenda Marshall, the location was changed to a busier location, three hands-on activities were offered, and lots of photos and information on recycling plastic, endangered species, and flora and fauna commonly found our area were displayed. Tables were extended from the tent due the great location enabling children to flock to the tables and decorate butterflies created from plastic bottles and to make seed balls. 54 people signed our register book and 13 indicated that they were interested in knowing more about the program. Thanks to all who helped to make the day an impressive achievement.



To promote the Reuse, Recycle, Reuse campaign for public awareness of Plastics Pollution, Sue Singletary, Christine Schmelebeck, and Don Fralick participated in the Recycled Plastic Scarecrow Contest.



- a report from the meeting by Laura Clark

Wow. That’s my final assessment of the Texas Master Naturalists Annual Meeting in Georgetown. It started with the typical unpredictability of a big event organized solely by volunteers... the bus scheduled to take us on



the field trip I had chosen had broken down and there was no replacement. About 50 attendees, mostly in their 60s and 70s from all over the State, were told we were going to carpool through Austin traffic. Just find someone to ride with, our leader told us, and put this address in your GPS or Google maps on your phone. Lots of “cow staring at a new gate” looks, but we



all made it to the first destination. Leaving there and heading to the second site got tricky, though, because due to limited parking, we were only allowed 7 vehicles. But with pickup trucks, we figured it out! Reimar’s Ranch and Hamilton Pool were worth the challenges we faced.

And then the classes. Wow, again. There were so many to choose from! It was hard to narrow it down to what I could take in the limited time available. My first ones on ID’ing sedges, rushes and grasses were almost over my head — using microscopes to try to find florets with lemmas and paleas... yeah. Ten minutes into the afternoon session, my neighbor whispered, “I thought this was about ID’ing grasses... not morphology!” I whispered back, “It is... you have to know morphology to ID them...” He left. Haha.

But in the next class on plant identification by family and how to use dichotomous keys... Well, I could have taught it. And maybe I will!

The conference this year was the biggest ever — 652 registrants! There were 46 of the 48 chapters in Texas represented, the highest percentage ever. Longleaf Ridge received a special round of applause during the chapter roll call at the Awards Banquet for having a lone representative. Yay, me!



The host chapter, Goodwater, with over 30 attendees, and especially Ms. Julie Roccaforte, took this lone ranger under their wing and made her feel right at home.

The North Texas chapter, with 52, had the greatest number of attendees. They will host next year’s meeting in Rockwall, near Dallas.

The biggest thing I came away with is a new sense of just how important this organization is to the State of Texas, and what an impact it really can make when volunteers reach out to the community.

I definitely want to go back in 2019. Who wants to go with me?

MEMBER'S

CORNER ■