

**LRMN Board Meeting
December 5, 2019
Agrilife Office**

Officers present: Sharon Lamoreaux, Lori Horne, Joanie Kochanek, Laura Clark
Members: Richard Peters, Brenda Marshall, Phillip Hight, Fred Lyons, Keith Stephens, Sue Singletary

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Sharon Lamoreaux.

Treasurer's Report: Joanie Kochanek, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$3344.00.

Old Business:

Logo Design and Choice: Robert Webb has volunteered to work with London Ink to get the prototype ready. They already have a template for Texas Master Naturalists and will do embroidery work.

Meeting Followup: November's meeting went well with Amy's trunks. Richard Peters will continue with outreach at the Farmer's Market once a month. The Longleaf planting in Angelina National Forest was a success.

Sandy Creek meeting: Laura Clark attended and wrote a newsletter article explaining the purpose. She is drafting a response to Michael Schramm regarding projects we could participate in, such as removing invasives, planting natives, trash pickup. Laura will check on whether we could pickup on private land if it's for a public project sponsored by TCEQ.

Black Bear Meeting. Laura Clark attended and wrote a newsletter article. Our chapter can do education and outreach for Black Bears. Richard Peters said Donna Works, a biologist in Lufkin has a trunk she could loan us. Building our own trunk was also discussed. Lori said we could build one for \$200.

Back ordered certification pins for the dragonfly still haven't come in. New certification pins are already here.

E.O. Siecke - the brochure will not need to be done until a grand opening is planned. Signs have been ordered by Ben Plunkett, but since his wife just gave birth, he has not scheduled either Boy Scout troop to work on clearing the trail. When he tells us the signs are in, we will follow up on plans for this and the opening.

Terry McFall Update: he's having surgery on a carotid artery on the 9th with a 1-2 day hospital stay. His hand is back to 75%.

The Friends of the Park Parade will be at 5 pm today and the Christmas Party at 7:30. Several are attending.

New Business:

Longleaf Planting at Roy Larsen: The Nature Conservancy has just notified us that they need volunteers to help on December 14th to plant longleaf pines at the Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary in Silsbee. We will meet at the maintenance building at 9 a.m. Lori Horne will email info to Laura and she will get a group email out ASAP. Volunteers will need to RSVP to Lori. Directions: From Highway 69/287 North exit at Hwy 327. The sanctuary's public entrance is approximately three miles from Hwy 69/287 North. The visitor parking lot is located directly east of the Village Creek bridge on Hwy 327, and the maintenance building is just before it. Look for the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail sign on your left.

Martin Dies Work Day: December 10 from 9 to noon we will help remove wooden footbridges on walking trails to make way for culverts. Meet at 9 a.m. at the maintenance building, which is on the Hen House Ridge side just past main headquarters on the left. Bring gloves, footwear for maybe wet work, water. Laura will send out an email and request those who can attend to RSVP to pablo.Ramirez@tpwd.tx.gov, and will cc him on the email.

Christmas Party will be held December 10. Guests are welcome and encouraged. We will have a White Elephant gift exchange of a nature-themed gift for under \$20. Any family member you bring can participate by bringing a gift. We will be limited to 3 steals! Those who want to help decorate should show up at 5. The party will start at 6. No service hours or training will be earned — this is just a party, so come eat, socialize and have fun. We will be providing meat (Joanie will cook a ham). Everyone else can bring a side dish.

The next board meeting on January 9th will be followed by a lunch for the old and new officers at Pizza Hut. We will transfer information.

The January 14th meeting will be a presentation from Joanie Kochanek on Pollinators. Sharon will give a 2019 Summary and slide show. Kenneth Moore, a civil service biologist from Ft. Polk will be attending with his family. He will probably do a presentation for us later in the year. We will also have a 2020 Round Table to poll the group to find out where people have been working, what their interests are, who they know that might be good presenters, which of them would like to do presentations, and what kind of field trips they would like to have. Several possibilities for field trips were mentioned: Black Branch Barrens, Boroughs (Mine) Creek in Sabine National Forest 8 miles north of Milam where there's concretions, a waterfall, and they used to mine Fool's Gold (Keith); Cattail Marsh for birding (Phillip); a trip on the Ivory Bill in Beaumont; a bridge in Houston where bats can be seen (Richard); Paddling at Caddo (Keith); Eagles at Rayburn (Sue said Amanda and Fred could help compile hot spots to look); and the Museum of Natural History in Huntsville.

VMS Training: Sharon will take the training next year to learn how to generate reports, and possibly be a backup for approving hours.

Planting of Cypress Trees at Sandy Creek Park: Lori is waiting to hear back from Denise Kelley to get a date for this. It will possibly be in January. The trees are in 15 gal. pots so we will need equipment. We will get Hugh Pickle to help. Sue Singletary will try to get a map of the park printed at NRCS so we can tell where the city property lines are for any future projects in the park.

Eagle Count: January 11 was chosen as our count day. Three routes will be led by Sue Singletary, Terry McFall/Claire Boutte, and Keith Stephens. Participants will meet at 7 am behind the square (on the north side of the courthouse) in Hemphill. Sue will pass out info and organize the teams. At each stop, the GPS coordinates must be recorded, observation is made for 10 minutes, and sightings are recorded. We need a minimum of 3 teams of 3. If we have more than 12 volunteers, this will require a second vehicle to follow each lead. Every vehicle should carry as many people as possible because there are places where it will be hard to park more than

two. Participants should bring binoculars and/or a camera with zoom lens, and expect to make a full day trip. When the routes are finished, we will convene at the Hemphill BBQ to share a meal. Laura will send out several emails to let people know about the event, remind them and educate them. Phillip will compile information on identifying eagles and features that distinguish them from vultures, hawks, pelicans and others that can be confusing. Those who so far (besides the team leaders) have expressed an interest in participating are: Lisa Wise, Julia McCormick, Phillip Hight, Fred Lyons, Lori Horne, Laura Clark, Jerry Clark, Sharon Lamoreaux, Garry Lamoreaux, Joanie Kochanek and Georgia Purdy. Anyone else interested should notify Sue Singletary.

The next board meeting will be on January 9th, 2019.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Clark, Secretary