



# The Pine Cone Post

Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists



October-December, 2023

## 2023 Award Presentation

*By D'Ann White*

Congratulations! We had a really productive year! As a chapter, we contributed 2,248.25 volunteer hours this year. We also had 21 members re-certify... GREAT JOB!! Two members received their 1000 hour pin: Richard Peters & Laura Clark! Also, two members earned their 500 hour pin: Fred Lyons & Georgia Purdy. Finally, one member received her 250 hour pin: Elke Lyons. Congratulations to everyone for all their dedication and hard work. It really shows what a heart you have for our environment.

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*Elke Lyons (left) holding the 250 hour pin that D'Ann White (right) had presented to her*



*Fred Lyons holding his 500 hour pin.*



*Laura Clark & Richard Peters were awarded their 1000 hour pin.*



*Members that Re-certified in 2023*

# Advanced Training Highlights

*By D'Ann White*



**October 10, 2023**

Eric & Vicki Newby presented a program called "Conquering Eco-Anxiety with Eco-Happiness." They discussed ways to combat Eco-Anxiety, which is the state of being anxious about the state of the environment, by volunteering and educating others. Eco-Happiness is the health benefits associated with volunteering (both physical & emotional benefits). Nature heals through color, patterns & textures, sounds, and scents.

**November 14, 2023**

Mike Howlett, of Petflytrap.com, spoke on carnivorous plants. Mike & his wife spoke about the various carnivorous plants (such as Pitcher plants & Sundews), their habitat, and care. The Texas Master Gardeners joined us for this program.

*---submitted by Lori Horne*



**December 12, 2023**

There was no program this month. We met at Trinity Baptist Church in Jasper, and had a Christmas party. We enjoyed great food and fellowship, and had a nature-related gift exchange.

# PIONEER DAY

*By D'Ann White*

On November 21, 2023, Martin Dies, Jr. State Park celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas State Parks by hosting a Pioneer Day. Visitors could “take a journey back in time and experience the life of pioneers” by observing reenactments of fire starting, outdoor cooking, how to use a shaving horse, archery, knot tying, and many other skills. Volunteers and park staff overcame obstacles (such as windy, cold weather and a burn ban) to provide a fun and educational experience for adults and youth alike. There were approximately 130 visitors reached with these programs.

## Programs included:

- Bevils Rangers Reenactors: Lori Horne, Keith Stephens & Ed Cotton
- Archery: Joel Janssen, TPWD & Volunteer Yvonne Goss
- Furs & Skulls: Robert Webb
- Coloring Pages: Park host Ronda Powers
- Knot Tying: Park staff (Joshua, Brett & Jared)
- Guided Hike: Volunteer Pete Zama
- Pioneer Cooking: Daniel & D'Ann White
- Cowboy Music & Poetry: Greg Bade, Smokey Culver, Ed Meyer & Billy Tumbleweed



*Keith Stephens instructed on how to use a shaving horse*

*Ed Cotton demonstrated fire starting*



*Daniel & D'Ann White talked about the benefits of Dutch Oven cooking & gave a demonstration on how to make fry bread & beef stew.*



*Greg Bade, Smokey Culver, Ed Meyer & Billy Tumbleweed showcased cowboy music & poetry*



*Robert Webb presented skulls & furs*



# Looking Back... Winter 2023



Kittie Bade & Sharon Lamoreaux at a Traditional Pottery Workshop at Caddo Mounds in November



Photos from LRMN Facebook page

Laura Clark on the Native Plant Society Field Trip in November



Kimberly Wagner presented Sharon & Gary Lamoreaux with the Stash Your Trash Litter Getter award.



3rd Saturday Bioblitz at Canyonlands Unit of the Big Thicket, December 16



Lori Horne & Bigfoot (AKA Keith Stephens) host a TMN table at the MDJSP Halloween event



Richard Peters instructing on how to make solitary bee houses during the Texas Pollinator Bioblitz on October 21

Lori Horne planting grass plugs in the Big Thicket on December 9



Sharon Lamoreaux— Butterfly Festival in Jasper, October 7



Kittie Bade---Texas Pollinator Bioblitz, October 21

# Bumblebee Watch





<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>

*Editor's Note: I noticed that our chapter has a Field Research project opportunity in the VMS that is not being conducted, so I thought I would showcase this project, just in case anyone is interested in the project.*

## Bumble Bees Need Three Things to Thrive:

- 1) Flowers to Forage
- 2) A Place to Build Nests
- 3) A Pesticide-Free Environment

## How to Submit a Sighting

- 1  Take a photo of a bumble bee
- 2  Log in and upload your photo
- 3  Identify your species
- 4  Sighting will be verified by expert

## Flowers That Attract Bumble Bees:

- Prairie Milkweed
- Texas False Boneset
- Common Buttonbush
- Texas Thistle
- Golden Alexanders
- Shrubby St. John's Wort
- Pickerelweed
- Canada Goldenrod
- Purple Prairie Clover



- Canadian Milkvetch
- Philadelphia Fleabane
- Red Raspberry
- Pacific Serviceberry
- White Turtlehead
- Spotted Joe Pye Weed
- Blazing Stars
- Wild Blue Phlox

## Bumble Bees in Texas



- Southern Plains Bumble Bee-- Feb.-Nov.
- Brown-belted Bumble Bee (Common)-- Feb.-Nov.
- Common Eastern Bumble Bee-- Mar.-Nov.
- American Bumble Bee (In Decline)-- Feb.-Dec.
- Variable Cuckoo Bumble Bee (Very Rare)

# Winter Seed Sowing

By D'Ann White

Last winter, someone had explained the process of Winter Seed Sowing, and it peaked my interest. So, when I came across this infographic on Facebook, I thought I would share some information about it in case anyone else is interested in starting seeds in this manner.

## Benefits to Winter Seed Sowing:

- Inexpensive
- Recycle/Repurpose Containers (Plastic jugs, Soda bottles, Food containers with clear lids)
- Don't Need Specialized Lights/Heat Mats
- Not Time Consuming
- Don't Need to "Harden Off" Plants

Note: Most of the articles agree that the ideal time to sow is Jan-Feb.



## Supplies Needed:

- Potting Soil
- Seeds
- Clear plastic containers
- Screwdriver or old knife
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Paint Pen & Labels

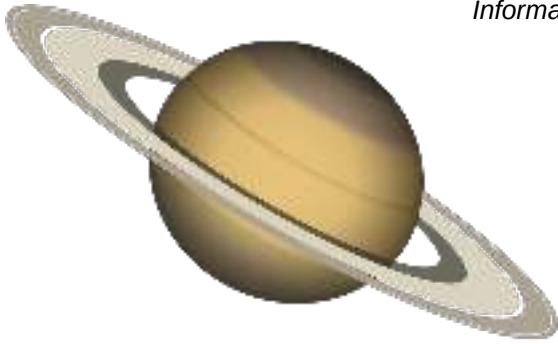
## Types of Seeds to Winter Sow:

- Milkweed
  - Bee Balm
  - Delphinium
  - Coneflower
  - Salvia
  - Yarrow
  - Hyssop
  - Calendula
  - Sunflower
  - Black-eyed Susan
  - Verbena
  - Broccoli
  - Onions
  - Beets
  - Cauliflower
  - Leafy Greens
  - Sage
  - Oregano
  - Dill
  - Sage
  - Parsley
  - Mint
  - Lavender
- Key terms to look for when choosing seed varieties:
- Self Sowing
  - Direct Sowing
  - Cold Hardy
  - Sow When Cool
  - Pre-Chill

\*\*\*Once seeds germinate, check often. As they grow they will need a larger opening in container to provide better air circulation.

# Night Sky January-March, 2024

Information taken from [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



## January

- January 1: Venus visible in the morning sky  
Jupiter brightest “star” at night in southeast sky  
Saturn visible in Aquarius constellation
- January 4: Quadrantids Meteor Shower
- January 13-14: Moon & Saturn are “dancing” together
- January 18: Conjunction of Moon & Jupiter
- January 25: Full Moon (Wolf Moon)
- January 27: Mars & Mercury seen together in morning sky



## February

- February 14: Jupiter & Moon seen together
- February 20-24: Conjunction of Mars & Venus
- February 24: Full Moon (Snow Moon)
- Orion Constellation visible this month
- Sirius in the Big Dipper Constellation is the brightest star this month
- Winter Triangle visible: Procyon (in Little Dipper), Sirius, and Betelgeuse

## March

- March 10-31: Mercury visible in the evening sky
- March 17-31: Saturn visible in the morning sky
- March 25: Full Moon (Worm Moon)
- Jupiter visible at night during the whole month
- Draco Constellation is visible
- The tiara of the Corona Borealis (Northern Crown) is visible



# 2023 Annual VMS Report

*By D'Ann White*

During the 2023 year, members reported to the the following opportunities, totaling 2,248.25 volunteer hours:

• CB: Chapter Meeting & Admin Work.....	433.75 hours
• FR: Audubon Christmas Bird Count.....	21.0 hours
• FR: Birding at MDJSP.....	87.5 hours
• FR: Birding Classic/Big Sit.....	36.5 hours
• FR: Citizen Scientist.....	439.5 hours
• FR: Eagle Count.....	101.0 hours
• FR: Great Backyard Bird Count.....	4.0 hours
• FR: Project Feeder Watch.....	45.75 hours
• FR: Texas Nature Trackers.....	31.25 hours
• FR: Texas Stream Team.....	82.5 hours
• NPA: Arboretum.....	44.75 hours
• NPA: MDJSP.....	38.75 hours
• NPA: Sandy Creek NPS project.....	22.5 hours
• PO: Farmers Market.....	8.75 hours
• PO: MDJSP.....	74.75 hours
• PO: Public Outreach Service.....	164.0 hours
• RM: Big Thicket.....	37.5 hours
• RM: Forest Service.....	40.5 hours
• RM: Keep Texas Beautiful.....	71.0 hours
• RM: MDJSP.....	39.75 hours
• RM: Resource Management-LRMN.....	24.75 hours
• RM: The Nature Conservancy.....	5.0 hours
• RM: US Army Corps of Engineers.....	4.0 hours
• TG: Big Thicket Association.....	2.0 hours
• TG: Friends of MDJSP.....	126.25 hours
• TR: MDJSP Paddling Guide.....	11.0 hours
• TR: Big Thicket volunteer.....	22.0 hours
• TR: Programs/Presentations.....	142.5 hours
• TR: Shangri-La Gardens.....	85.75 hours

**Note: We are only utilizing 29 of the 45 opportunities that our chapter has approved. If you are looking for a new project, check out the list in your VMS portal under “My Placements”.**



# Upcoming Events

## January

- Jan. 6--- Midwinter Eagle Count
- Jan. 9--- TMN Tuesday  
Chapter Meeting
- Jan. 13--- Birding at MDJSP
- Jan. 18--- Friends of MDJSP Meeting
- Jan. 19--- Black Bear Alliance Meeting,  
in Lufkin
- Jan. 20--- Bioblitz

## February

- Feb. 10--- Birding at MDJSP
- Feb. 13--- TMN Tuesday  
Chapter Meeting  
Initial Training Class Begins
- Feb. 17--- Bioblitz
- Feb. 20--- Training Class #2
- Feb. 27--- Training Class #3

## March

- Mar. 5--- Training Class #4
- Mar. 9--- Birding at MDJSP
- Mar. 12--- TMN Tuesday  
Chapter Meeting  
Training Class #5
- Mar. 16--- Bioblitz
- Mar. 19--- Training Class # 6
- Mar. 26--- Training Class #7
- Mar. 30--- Texas Stream Team Training  
in Nacagdoches



**Spread the Word!**  
**New Training Class begins**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup>!**

**Share this QR code with**  
**anyone interested in taking**  
**our training classes.**



Join TMN

# Upcoming Events



Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Registration
- Checkpoints
- Sponsor Area Coordination
- Goody Bag Coordination
- Volunteer Area Coordination
- Lost & Found
- "Go Getters"
- Launch/Take Out Coordination
- Signage & Tent Coordination
- Van Coordination
- Parking Coordination
- Vessel Coordination
- Recycle/Waste Coordination
- Safety Patrol
- Radio Coordination
- First Aid
- Race Coordination
- Contest Coordination
- Contest Judges
- Vendor Coordination



See Kimberly Wagner for more information!

# CHAPTER INFORMATION

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists website.....<https://txmn.org/llr/>  
Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalist Facebook.....<https://www.facebook.com/groups/196451348395608>  
Martin Dies Jr. State Park events..... [https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/martin-dies-jr/park\\_events](https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/martin-dies-jr/park_events)  
Watson Preserve Facebook.....<https://www.facebook.com/groups/564425933696669/>  
Big Thicket National Preserve.....<https://www.nps.gov/bith/index.htm>  
Keep Texas Beautiful.....<https://ktb.org>

**2024**

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### **President**

Daniel White

#### **Vice-President**

Richard Peters

#### **Secretary**

Georgia Purdy

#### **Treasurer**

Fred Lyons

#### **Past President**

Lori Horne

### COORDINATORS

#### **Birding Trips**

Fred Lyons

#### **Bioblitzes**

Laura Clark

#### **Field Trips**

Keith Stephens

#### **VMS / Newsletter**

D'Ann White

#### **Website**

Daniel White

## Article Submissions Due: March, 2023

- Email me any pictures or articles you would like to see in our next quarterly newsletter! My email address is [danielwhitefamily@gmail.com](mailto:danielwhitefamily@gmail.com).
- You can also upload to the Google Drive, and just email me to let me know that you have done so.

## Our Chapter has a Google Drive!

Do you have any pictures, videos, or files you would like to share with the rest of the chapter? You can scan the QR code to access the drive & upload.

Note: You will either need a Gmail account or link your current email to Google in order to access the drive.



### **Meetings:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of each month, 6 pm  
At St. Michaels Catholic Church  
2898 US Hwy 190 W, Jasper, TX 75951

### **Board Meetings**

1st Thurs of each month, 10 am  
At the Jasper County Agrilife office  
271 East Lamar, Suite 101 Jasper, TX 75951

### **Partners**

Martin Dies, Jr State Park  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers---  
Sam Rayburn

### **Advisors**

Texas Agrilife: Caitlin Gallegos  
TPWD: Chuck Hubbard