



The Pine Cone Post

Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists

3rd Quarter, 2025



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President's Corner

By Tammy Jimenez

Time, it is our most valuable commodity. We have all been given a set amount of time...in a day, in a week, in a month, in a year, in a season, and in our lives. As I have pondered what to include in this brief article, that is the word that keeps coming to my mind. I am amazed at the wonderful people who so graciously give of their time to make Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists successful. Every element that makes us successful requires time and commitment. Serving in the role of president has afforded me the opportunity to gain a glimpse of some of the hard work and dedication –

- Arranging monthly meeting speakers/guests
- Arranging a place for us to meet monthly
- Keeping up with the hundreds of volunteer hours you all complete each month
- Developing educational presentations for our meetings and the community
- Teaching educational presentations for our meetings and the community
- Attending board meetings and club meetings
- Attending meetings of other like-minded organizations that keep us connected
- Writing grants
- Gathering data as citizen scientists
- Arranging outings and field trips
- Setting up at farmer's market and festivals
- Detailed planning and delivery of a Master Naturalist Training Class
- Keeping up with the financials of our group

Thank you. Thank you all for so willingly giving of your precious commodity, time.

Buzz & Bloom Garden

By Anne Davis & Laura Clark

Congratulations, Longleaf Ridge fellow Master Naturalists!!! We've been awarded the \$4,000 HEB grant for the pollinator garden in Jasper. Thanks to help from Master Gardeners and the Jasper Hospital District, we were able to secure the rights to the plot of land and submit the grant in June. The HEB grant was awarded through our partners at Texas Park and Wildlife. HEB awards grants up to \$4,000 to TXMN chapters throughout the state, but this is a first for East Texas.

The garden will be located on Marvin Hancock Dr., just north of the Children's Clinic and across from the hospital's emergency helipad and first responders' newly completed residence. The garden design features a fountain pond, paths, interpretative signage, bee and bat houses, and more. It will have engaging signage and games for children such as hopscotch, tic-tac-toe, and "wacky facts" about pollinators and their importance to us.

All Hands on Deck!

We need all hands to make this garden a reality. We plan to break ground this month. The Hospital District will be installing electric and water and the pond. We plan to purchase plants and get them in the ground soon.

Donate/find plants: Several volunteers are busy trying to locate a reliable source for the plants on our list, and they can use some help. We prefer plants rather than seeds, and we must use the species that were submitted in the application. If you didn't receive the plant list, and would like to help locate them, contact Laura Clark at 409-594-0821.

Design and Plant: Julia McCormick is doing a soil survey. Then, we will haul in mulch and the donated boulders and lay out the design for the beds and paths. We hope that the hospital district is able to get water to the site so we can start planting as early as November for any plants we can secure by then. The balance of planting will be done in the Spring. We will be planning work days so please watch your email for these dates.

Woodcrafting: We can also use our woodcraft experts to create benches and the bee and bat houses for our garden. Please let Anne Davis (281-685-6029) know if you are able to craft some of these. See the attached photos for some ideas.



Buzz & Bloom Garden

Continued

By Anne Davis

Make signage: We'll be looking for help with crafting small signs for the garden such as pollinator wacky facts and interpretive signage. Or make our "no mow, no spray signage" for our Buzz and Bloom challenge. See our photos and Google for ideas.

Event Participation: We'll be looking for volunteers to staff booths and share literature about our garden and how to plant your own. And we're offering free "No mow, no spray" signs to community members who designate acreage for pollinators. Our first event is the Jasper Butterfly Festival on October 4, from 8am-4 pm. Contact Sharon Lamoreaux if you can volunteer a few hours.

Donate: Our garden will fall short of the cash it needs to be completed. We'll be looking for donors to raise the additional \$5000 to finish the garden. If you would like to donate, please contact Anne Davis (annedavis5722@gmail.com). Gifts- in- kind are welcome (items mentioned above).





Looking Back... 2nd Quarter, 2025

Photos from LRMN
Facebook page

Collecting Bamboo for Pollinator Bioblitz



*September 19---Wildlife Expo at
Jasper County Courthouse Annex
Pictured: Richard Peters, Laura
Clark, Sharon Lamoreaux
Not pictured: Terry McFall, &
Garry Lamoreaux*



*September 20--- Exploring
Little Rocky*



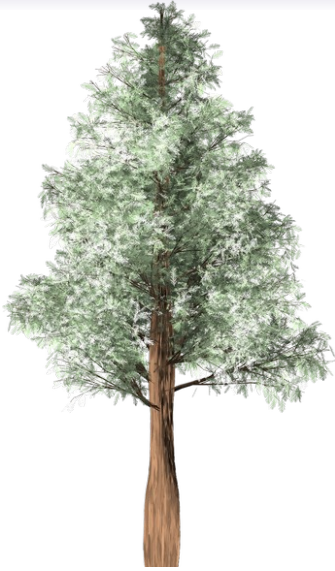
Richard Peters



Laura Clark

Advanced Training Highlights

By D'Ann White

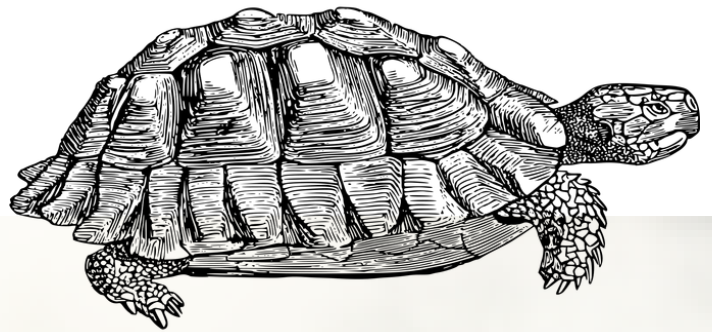


July 8, 2025

Donna Work came and gave a presentation on some famous trees in Texas. One such tree in our area is the "Turner Red Cedar" near Indian Springs.

August 11, 2025

Member, Kim Wagner, and Emylea Cole gave a presentation on Scales, Shells, and Other Wild Tails. This was about a variety of animals, including several types of herps.



September 9, 2025

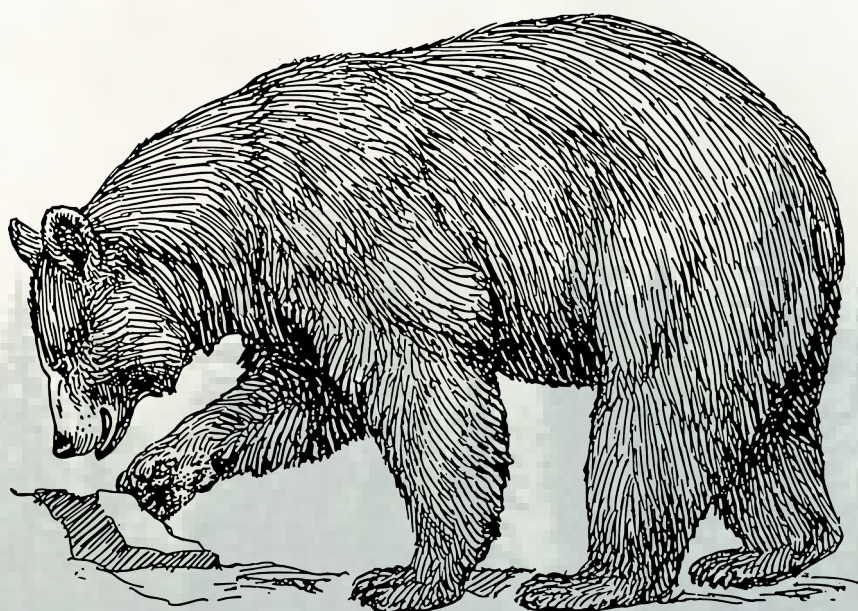
Member, Sharon Lamoreaux, gave a presentation about Ant Lions (Myrmeleontidae). She discussed the how the larva traps their prey, as well as their habitat.

News from Texas Black Bear Alliance

Reported By Ellen Buchanan (TBBA newsletter)

A BLACK BEAR HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN EAST TEXAS.

TBBA is excited to share the news that Texas Parks and Wildlife has confirmed a black bear traveling through East Texas in August. The bear has been spotted in Anderson, Cherokee, Rusk, and Panola counties. The bear was captured on game trail cameras and even left behind footprints in the Mud Creek area near Ponta.



AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY

By D'Ann White

(*Callicarpa americana*)

It's about that time of year where we will begin seeing Beautyberries ripening. Some areas are already seeing the bright purple berries, however, they usually don't ripen on my place until around October, so I probably have a couple more weeks. However, I'll have to fight the birds to gather these bright berries (wildlife love these berries!). This plant was one of the first plants I learned to forage here in Southeast Texas. They have a very distinctive pattern in the way the berries grow.



The berries are not great for eating by themselves as they are labeled as "slightly astringent." I don't think they have much flavor, but they make a beautiful jelly.

Supposedly, Beautyberry has some medicinal properties, but I do not have firsthand experience with this. From what I read, the Native Americans used to use the roots in a tea to treat stomach ailments, a tea from the roots and berries to treat colic, they used a tea from the roots and leaves in sweat houses to treat fevers and malaria. It also appears that the leaves have been used as a mosquito repellent. I believe some studies have even been done on its anti-cancer properties.

Beautyberry Jelly

6 c. berries
8 c. water
Boil for approximately 20 minutes, mash berries & strain. Then, use
4 cups juice
5.5 cups sugar
1 box pectin
2 Tbsp lemon juice



VMS Report

By D'Ann White

In the last three quarters, members reported to the the following opportunities, totaling 1591.25 volunteer hours:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| • Bat Monitoring..... | 2.0 hours ** |
| • CB: Chapter Meeting & Admin Work..... | 381.5 hours |
| • FR: Christmas Bird Count..... | 32.0 hours |
| • FR: Birding at MDJSP..... | 68.5 hours |
| • FR: Birding Classic/ Big Sit..... | 17.5 hours |
| • FR: Citizen Scientist..... | 196.75 hours |
| • FR: CoCoRaHS..... | 83.25 hours |
| • FR: Eagle Survey..... | 42.0 hours |
| • FR: Great Backyard Bird Count..... | 3.75 hours |
| • FR: Feeder Watch..... | 88.25 hours |
| • FR: Texas Nature Trackers..... | 31.0 hours |
| • FR: Texas Stream Team..... | 22.5 hours |
| • NPA: Arboretum..... | 3.0 hours |
| • NPA: LLR Pollinator Garden..... | 7.0 hours |
| • PO: MDJSP..... | 43.75 hours |
| • PO: Public Outreach Service..... | 155.75 hours |
| • RM: Big Thicket..... | 13.0 hours |
| • RM: Forest Service..... | 34.0 hours |
| • RM: Keep Texas Beautiful..... | 42.0 hours |
| • RM: Longleaf Ridge general RM..... | 17.0 hours |
| • TG: Grants..... | 37.5 hours |
| • TG: Friends of MDJSP..... | 67.0 hours |
| • TR: MDJSP Paddling Guide..... | 0.25 hour |
| • TR: Big Thicket Volunteer..... | 18.0 hours |
| • TR: Pine Needle Basket..... | 16.5 hours |
| • TR: Programs/Presentations..... | 107.5 hours |
| • TR: Shangri-La Gardens..... | 29.0 hours |
| • TR: WH Stark House Museum..... | 33.0 hours |

*** The Bat Monitoring was a statewide opportunity, but due to a system glitch, our chapter was no longer approved to report to it, so all subsequent Bat Monitoring hours were reported to FR: Citizen Scientist.

Upcoming Events

October

- Oct 2--- Board Meeting Butterfly Festival
- Oct 4--- Booth @
- Oct 11--- Birding at MDJSP
- Oct 14--- TMN Tuesday
Chapter Meeting
- Oct 16-19--- TMN Annual Meeting
- Oct 18--- Pollinator Bioblitz at MDJSP (10 am-2pm)
Siecke State Forest Centennial Celebration
(9am-12pm)

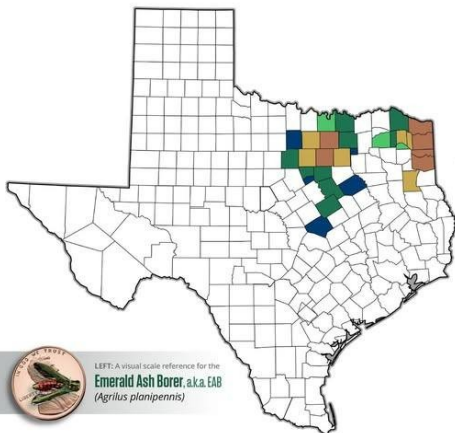


November

- Nov 1--- Fall Sweep the Litter (Keep Jasper Beautiful) Pickup is along
2799 and Marvin Hancock. Meet at 9 am.
- Nov 7--- Board Meeting
- Nov 8--- Birding at MDJSP
- Nov 11--- Pioneer Day @ MDJSP
TMN Tuesday
Chapter Meeting

December

- Dec 4--- Board Meeting
- Dec 6--- Planting Native Plants (Big Thicket Preserve) 9am-12pm
- Dec 9--- TMN Tuesday
Chapter Meeting
- Dec 13--- Birding at MDJSP



TRACKING THE SPREAD EMERALD ASH BORER IN TEXAS

Confirmed cases documented by Texas A&M Forest Service as of Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

| | |
|-------------|------|
| 2016 - 2020 | 2023 |
| 2021 | 2024 |
| 2022 | 2025 |



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
 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>

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Tammy Jimenez

Vice-President

Richard Peters

Secretary

Sharon Lamoreaux

Treasurer

Fred Lyons

Past President

Daniel White

Coordinators

Birding Trips

Fred Lyons

Bioblitzes

Laura Clark

Field Trips

Keith Stephens

VMS / Newsletter

D'Ann White

Website

Daniel White



Article Submissions Due: December 15, 2025

Email me any pictures or articles you would like to see in our next quarterly newsletter! My email address is 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.



Meetings:

2nd 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