



The Pine Cone Post

Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists

T E X A S

4th Quarter, 2025



Table of Contents

President's Corner.....	pg 1
Pollinator Garden.....	pg 2
Pollinator Garden.....	pg 3
Bat Monitoring.....	pg 4
Bluebirds.....	pg 5
Looking Back.....	pg 6
AT Highlights.....	pg 7
Pioneer Day.....	pg 8
Christmas Party.....	pg 9
VMS Report.....	pg 10
Upcoming Events.....	pg 11
Chapter Info.....	pg 12



President's Corner

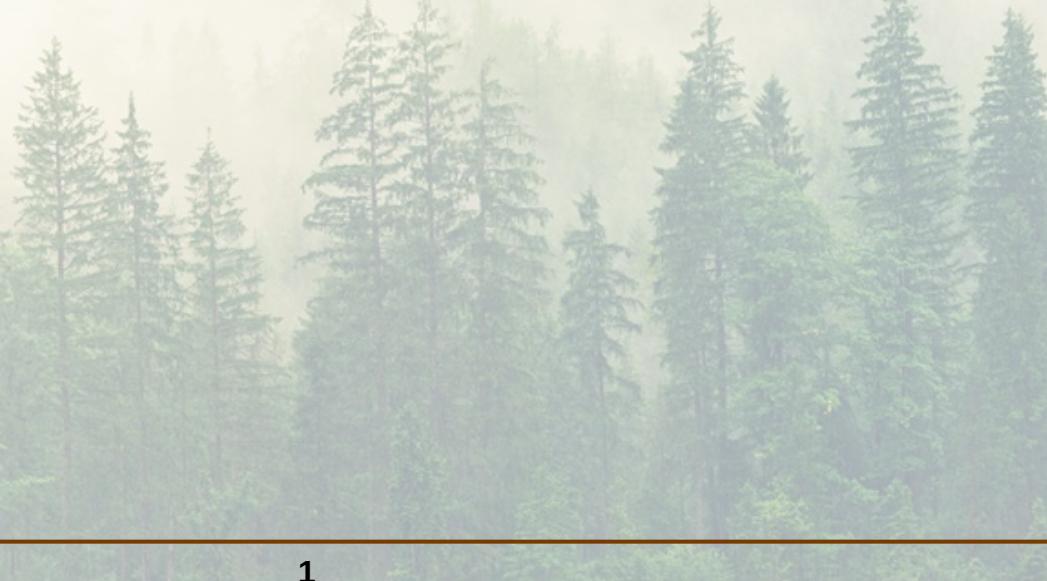
By Tammy Jimenez

As autumn's last colors fade, the world around us begins its slow exhale. Winter doesn't rush in; it settles, like a soft blanket drawn over the landscape. This shift in seasons is more than a change in temperature—it's an invitation to recalibrate.

In nature, rest is not optional. Trees conserve their energy, animals burrow into quiet rhythms, and even the light itself grows gentler and more selective. There's wisdom in that pause. Winter reminds us that growth isn't always visible, and productivity isn't always loud. Sometimes the most meaningful progress happens beneath the surface, in stillness.

For many of us, this season offers a chance to step back from the relentless pace of the year. It's a moment to reflect on what we've carried, what we've learned, and what we're ready to release. Rest is not a retreat from life—it's preparation for what comes next.

For this wonderful group it means new leaders taking the reins and behind the scenes preparation for the upcoming Master Naturalist class. Thank you, Keith Stephens, for stepping into the role as president. Your knowledge and leadership will carry us forward.



Buzz & Bloom Garden

By Anne Davis & Laura Clark

Buzz and Bloom Pollinator Garden and classes are underway.

Nine of our members and several Jasper Master Gardeners have shoveled, hoisted, cleaned, and weeded to prepare the garden for dozens of pollinator plants to be purchased in February and planted in March. We had yards of mulch to move into place, existing beds to clean out, and a large "snake pit" to clean out. Much of the work was done thanks to Doug Heath's and Skip Davis's tractors! We found 8 wrought iron bench arms that will get new cypress slats for 4 garden benches thanks to Hugh and Beth Pickle. The church was given a donation for the greenhouse we discovered in the snake pit and sold.

Sharon Lamoreaux has begun classes for the school children at the Kingdom Roots Academy on site. Her lessons were on 1) seeds and 2) identifying plants. Both included some fun activities. If you have a desire to teach, please contact Sharon at sherlmx@gmail.com.



\$450 check made out to Harvest Church (for the sale of the greenhouse that Hugh Pickle arranged for us) presented to Gabriel, headmaster of Kingdom Roots Academy.

Cary Heath & Anne Davis



QR code for the Pollinator Garden on our website

Buzz & Bloom Garden

Continued

By Anne Davis & Laura Clark

We are also asking residents to pledge their roadsides and acreage with a “no mow, no spray” zone to encourage wildflowers and pollinators to prosper. Our goal is 1000 acres! If you already have acreage you don’t mow or spray, you can use it, too! If you choose to participate signs can be purchased on Amazon. Fill out these few sentences in an email to annedavis5722@gmail.com.

I pledge to increase pollinator habitat by not mowing or spraying _____ acres. (Fill in a number)

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Right now the garden is at rest. But we will gear up for putting down pea gravel paths, loads of mulch and interpretive signage. And plant! So please watch for dates when you can join us in February and March. And we still have needs for the following :

- Sign makers
- Native plants (check with Laura Clark (lauralucillemorgan@yahoo.com) for a list of species)
- Metal Edging
- Pea gravel
- Cash donations to cover what our HEB Grant does not



*Claire Boutté
& Sharon
Lamoreaux*



Hugh Pickle & Keith Stephens



Acoustic Monitoring Bat Project

By Anne Davis & Ferryn Martin

We have bats!

Our bat monitor is a surprising success!

Our Longleaf Chapter successfully concluded year one of our 5 year bat monitoring partnership with TWPD. Many of our members volunteered to place a monitor on their property. Unfortunately, one monitor microphone malfunctioned so only half the sites had a working monitor. However, we were able to collect data from 9 of the 18 sites.

We used the Wildlife Acoustics bat monitors, which recorded over 8000 bat calls over 9 weeks. Then, these calls were analyzed by Kaleidoscope Pro software which matches each with hundreds of known bat calls. The software identified 10 species likely present in our area including 4 that were “species of greatest conservation need” (***)! Each landowner receives a report of the species on their property. Here are some of them if you wish to look them up.

- Tri-Color ***
- Eastern Red
- Hoary ***
- Evening
- Mexican Free Tail
- Big Brown
- Northern Yellow***
- Seminole***
- Silver Haired



A PowerPoint presentation (in PDF) which has photos and fun facts about each species is available upon request: contact annedavis5722@gmail.com.

A replacement microphone is on its way to us. So we will start year 2 of our citizen science project in late April. If you’re interested in placing a monitor on your property this year please contact Ferryn Martin at Ferrynmartin1979@gmail.com.



Eastern Bluebirds

By D'Ann White

Bluebird nesting season begins in March and will continue through August. Now is the time to prepare the nesting boxes (making sure they are clean of wasp nests, etc) and consider locations for placing nesting boxes. Some considerations for placing boxes include: have in an open area, have shade from the afternoon sun, have a small tree or shrub within a 100 feet of the box, and if placing several nesting boxes, make sure they are 50 feet apart.

There are a few considerations to attract birds to your yard: make sure there is a water source nearby, and plant native plants to both attract insects as a food source and to provide berries for the bluebirds in winter.

**Begin checking nestboxes weekly beginning in March, once eggs are present, check every 3-4 days. Report on Nestwatch.org.



**Information obtained from:
<https://www.texasbluebirdsociety.org/>

Plants to Attract Insects:

- Yarrow
- Wild Onion
- Milkweed
- Paintbrush
- Buttonbush
- Mistflower
- Sunflowers
- Lantana
- Gayfeather
- Turk's Cap
- Passion vine
- Goldenrod
- Verbena

Plants That Produce Food:

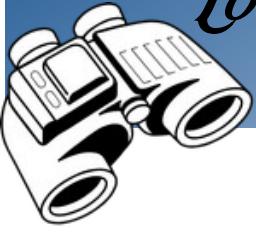
- Red Mulberry
- Sugarberry
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Peppervine
- American Beautyberry
- Mayhaw
- American holly
- Yaupon
- Elderberry
- Sumac
- American Pokeweed
- Dewberry

Developmental Stages for Nestwatch Data



www.nestwatch.org

Looking Back... 4th Quarter, 2025



Keith Stephens

Photos from LRMN
Facebook page

Claire Boutté



Terry McFall

Sharon
Lamoreaux



Oct 18—Pollinator
Bioblitz, MDJSP



Oct 18-- EO Siecke
Centennial Event

Linda Cullums



Nov 1--
Keep Jasper
Beautiful
Fall Sweep

Doug
Boutté



Claire
Boutté

Richard
Peters



Richard Peters demonstrating leaf
rubbings



Laura Clark



Oct 4-- Butterfly Festival--- Richard Peters
& Tammy Jimenez



Advanced Training Highlights

By D'Ann White



October 14, 2025

The Flennikens from Misfit Farms gave a presentation called “Isopods and Composting Worms in Soil Food Web.” This program focused on the important role of isopods in soil fertility and health.

November 11, 2025

Anne Davis gave a presentation on the bat monitoring report data. One monitor worked well, but there were problems with the other monitor. Hopefully, the second monitor will be repaired before our next monitoring session.



December 9, 2025

There was no AT as we had a Christmas party instead.

Pioneer Day

By D'Ann White

On November 25, 2025, Martin Dies Jr State Park hosted its annual Pioneer Day event. Demonstrations were given on Pioneer kitchen items, harvest bounty, muskets, and accouterments. Due to a countywide burn ban, which was lifted during the middle of the event, the Dutch Oven cooking demonstration had to be converted to outdoor cooking on camp stoves. Talks were given about Dutch ovens, and samples of beef stew and Indian fry bread were distributed. There was also a demonstration on coffee roasting.



D'Ann White



Lori Horne



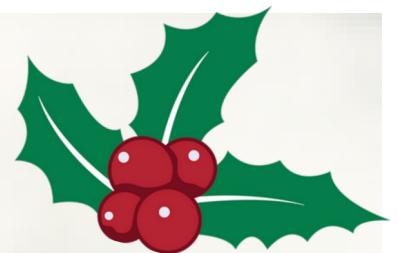
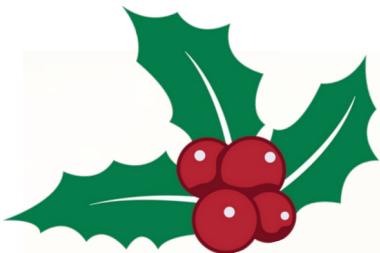
Daniel White

CHRISTMAS PARTY

After our December meeting, we had a Christmas party with a Chinese gift exchange. The gifts were nature/conservation themed.



Garry Lamoreaux & Daniel White



Jerry Clark



Richard Peters

VMS Report

By D'Ann White

For the 2025 year, members reported to the the following opportunities, totaling 2224.75 volunteer hours:

• Bat Monitoring.....	2.0 hours **
• CB: Chapter Meeting & Admin Work.....	591.5 hours
• FR: Christmas Bird Count.....	37.0 hours
• FR: Birding at MDJSP.....	74.0 hours
• FR: Birding Classic/ Big Sit.....	17.5 hours
• FR: Citizen Scientist.....	236.0 hours
• FR: CoCoRaHS.....	120.75 hours
• FR: Eagle Survey.....	42.0 hours
• FR: Great Backyard Bird Count.....	3.75 hours
• FR: Feeder Watch.....	111.75 hours
• FR: Texas Nature Trackers.....	38.0 hours
• FR: Texas Stream Team.....	32.5 hours
• NPA: Arboretum.....	7.0 hours
• NPA: LLR Pollinator Garden.....	21.0 hours
• NPA: SFA Native Plant Center.....	9.5 hours
• PO: MDJSP.....	60.25 hours
• PO: Public Outreach Service.....	213.0 hours
• Pollinators for Texas-NPA.....	38.25 hours *
• Pollinators for Texas-NRM.....	26.5 hours *
• Pollinators for Texas-Training Others.....	7.5 hours *
• RM: Big Thicket.....	13.0 hours
• RM: Forest Service.....	41.5 hours
• RM: Keep Texas Beautiful.....	84.25 hours
• RM: MDJSP.....	5.0 hours
• RM: Longleaf Ridge General RM.....	17.0 hours
• RM: US Army Corps.....	5.0 hours
• TG: Grants.....	45.0 hours
• TG: Friends of MDJSP.....	109.0 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.....	114.0 hours
• TR: Shangri-La Gardens.....	29.0 hours
• TR: WH Stark House Museum.....	33.0 hours

* The Pollinators for Texas Opportunities are statewide opportunities specifically for hours associated with the HEB Pollinator Grant.

** 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.

24 Members Recertified for 2025

Note: The Texas Milkweeds and Monarchs project on Texas Nature Trackers is retiring and no longer able to be logged for hours under TNT, it is however still active on iNat.

Upcoming Events

January

- Jan 1--- New Year's Hike—Boykin Springs
- Jan 8--- Board Meeting
- Jan 10--- Birding at MDJSP
- Jan 12--- TMN Tuesday
Chapter Meeting
- Jan 15--- Friends of MDJSP meeting
- Jan 16--- Texas Black Bear Alliance meeting, Ellen Trout Zoo, Lufkin
- Jan 17--- Mid-Winter Eagle Count

February

- Feb 5--- Board Meeting
- Feb 10--- TMN Tuesday
Chapter Meeting
New Training Class Begins
- Feb 14--- Birding @ MDJSP

March

- Mar 5--- Board Meeting
- Mar 10--- TMN Tuesday
Chapter Meeting
- Mar 14--- Birding at MDJSP



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: March 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, 9:30 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