

LRMN News

Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalist's Newsletter



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Bill Zech

Vice-President

Lori Horne

Treasurer

Joanie Kochanek

Secretary

Sharon Lamoreaux

CHAPTER COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Programs

Lori Horne
Laura Clark

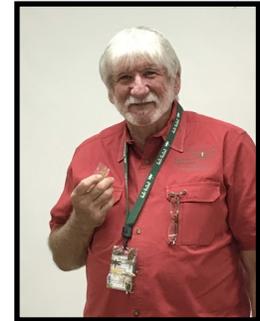
Newsletter

Sharon Lamoreaux



Recipients of certification pins for 2017—
(l-r) Phillip Hight, Janette Johnson, Brenda
Marshall, Lanny Marshall
Donald Fralich (not pictured)

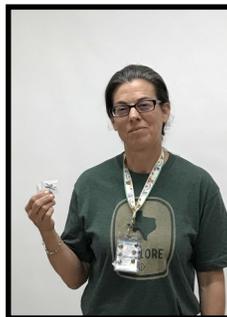
Way to Go!!!



Robert Webb
1000 service
hours



Joanie
Kochanek
500 service
hours



Lori Horne
500 service
hours



Sue Singletary
500 service
hours



Keith Stephens
250 service
hours

Service Awards

Not pictured—Terry McFall—250 hours

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.— Mahatma Gandhi

Head Start

Master Naturalist and Master Gardeners work together to give educational and fun programs to the children at Head Start which is located at the Episcopal Church on Main Street. We present on Wednesdays from 9-11 AM. Each presentation lasts about 20 minutes. There are 5 classes which include about 100 students. Coming to observe or lend a helping hand earns service hours. The students are age 3-5 years, so yes this is NOT for everyone BUT if you enjoy this age group COME join us. The teachers are very appreciative and the children love to give hugs to show their appreciation.



Georgia Purdy teaching insects



Claire Boutte teaching rock types

22nd Annual Great Texas Birding Classic

Our unit has participated in the Birding Classic since 2015. There are many tournament categories to choose from, we are entered in the Big Sit category, this means that we have to observe only from the observation bridge at Martin Dies. We start counting at sunrise and end around sunset. This year we have 11 people signed up to participate. Knowing your birds is not a requirement. Also being a member of Master Naturalist is not required. It is a time of fellowship and an opportunity to practice birding. This year we will observe on May 5th. All are still welcome. Binoculars are not required but very helpful. A report is submitted to eBird of all the species we observed and how many of each species. The money raised from the registration fee goes for Texas birds and birding conservation project grants. The winners of the tournament categories decide who gets the grant money.

—Articles and Photos submitted by Claire Boutte

UPCOMING EVENTS

April—

- 4th—HeadStart program—Light Catchers w/ Laura Clark
- 7th—Great American/Keep Jasper Beautiful Trash off
- 10th-13th—**Volunteers needed** at Martin Dies Jr. Park Nature Center <https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php?class=OppSearchResults&recruiterID=1353&geoarea=5117&activity=2344&type=all>
- 10th—**Chapter meeting** @ Martin Dies Jr. Park dining hall—6pm Program -Plastics Pollution—Julia McCormick
- 11th—HeadStart program—Earth Day w/ Claire Boutte
- 21st—**Volunteers needed** at Martin Dies Jr. State Park for Earth Day program <https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php?class=OppSearchResults&recruiterID=1353&geoarea=5117&activity=2344&type=all>

May—

- 2nd—HeadStart program—Succulents w/ Julia McCormick—**help needed**—email fdbclaire@gmail.com
- 5th—Big Bird Sit @ Martin Dies Jr. Park Observation Bridge
- 5th—Farmer's Market—1st day of Spring season 8-12pm
- 7th—**Chapter meeting** @ Jasper Courthouse Annex—6pm Program—Wildflowers of Texas/M. Eason

Is your name or picture in this newsletter? No? Let's fix that!!!

Send me something. Write up a short article about what you are doing as a Naturalist. Add a picture. Send them to me at sherlmx@gmail.com. Keep up with your time and enter it at <https://txmn.org/tmn-vms-users> under Administration—Communication.

More information

More information

Newsletter Survey Results

INTERESTS (from 20 Surveys)

Field Trips – 18	Learning – 17	Fellowship – 9	Conservation – 9
Sharing – 7	Area/Native plants – 7	Wildlife – 7	Bio-Diversity – 4
Informed Speakers – 4	Eagle Count – 3	Paddling – 3	Geology – 3
Food – 1	Photography – 1	Nature Center – 1	

Check out page 5

*Attended a meeting? Worked at the MDJP Nature Center, Arboretum, etc.?
Don't forget to enter your hours at <https://txmn.org/tmn-yms-users>.
There is a 45 day window. Enter it or lose it!!!*



pine tree pollen

(Does this picture look familiar?)

Microgametophytes is just one of the words used when talking about the process of Pollination. Our very existence is dependent on Pollination. In 2010, the honey bee contributed to over \$19 billion of crops with another \$10 billion coming from native pollinators. On the surface, pollinating is simply a bee flying from flower to flower carrying pollen from flower to flower. And, we can all sing “Let me tell you about the birds and the bees and the flowers...”

At our March meeting, a program was presented that the concept of pollination “being simple” may be “doubtful” to say the least. After reviewing the anatomy of common flowers, the program explained that even plants without flowers need to be pollinated. “Self” pollination does not need bees or other common insect to pollinate. While cross-pollination requires some type of “Vectors” (bees, butterflies etc.). Topics like “perfect and non-perfect flowers” and “complete and incomplete flower” further “de-simplified” the pollination process. Understanding “Pollinator Syndromes” explains a developed relationship that has been developed over “evaluation” to help plants and animals to have a mutually beneficial relationship. Delving into the understanding of “Nectaries” brought an understanding that “not all nectar is created equally and is not just for the bees to collect”, and that the location of the nectaries (the nectar glands) may differ from plant to plant. The conclusion is that: The process of pollination is in fact not simple at all. It is as diverse and as wonderful as all the wonders of creation. (By the way, microgametophytes is about the male sperm cell in the pollen. Feel free to use it in your next scrabble game.)

———Article submitted by Robert Webb

Robert was part of the first Master Naturalist group here in Jasper in 2014. He is also a Master Gardener and an interpreter at Shangri la in Orange, Texas. He loves learning and sharing what he has learned.

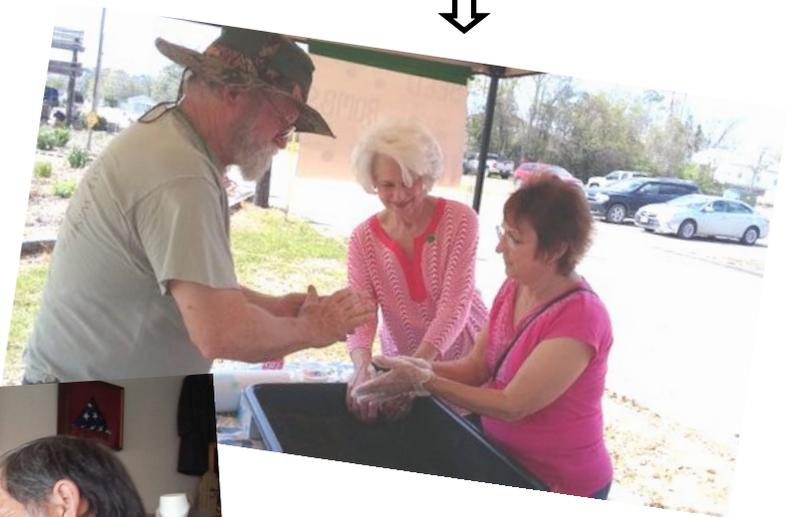
MEMBER'S

CORNER



Manning the LRMN Booth

Making Seed Bombs at the Outdoor Learning Center



Keeping us fed



Azalea Festival 2018



Interpreting at the Jasper County Historical Museum

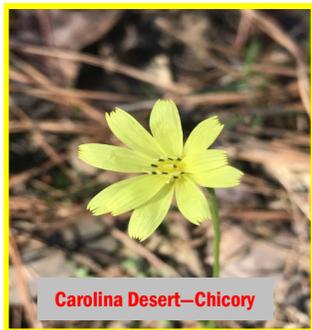
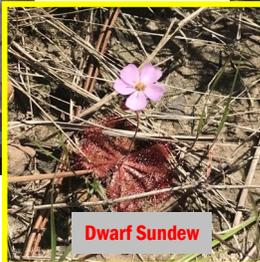
Pictures submitted by Julia McCormick, Laura Clark, and Sharon Lamoreaux
Participated but not pictured—Kenneth Coshman, Denise and Tom Banks,
Robert Webb, Julia McCormick, and Joanie Kochanek

E.O. SIECKE STATE FOREST

Field Trip !!!!

Twelve of our members and two guests enjoyed a guided tour of E.O. Siecke State Forest by forester, Ben Plunkett. Ben loves what he does and is very knowledgeable on this forest's rich history and its timber management. We rode and hiked to several sites that he is in charge of including the oldest slash pine stand in Texas and several longleaf pine sites. Having received 7 inches of rain earlier in the week, there were other sites that we couldn't get to due to road conditions, but it was a beautiful day. Sunshine, spring flowers and butterflies were abundant.

We have plans to revisit E.O. Seike in June to discuss possible service projects that would attract the public to the location.



Flowers photos — Laura Clark's latest additions to *INaturalist*