



**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

## April Chapter Hi-Lights



Lori Horne, Vice President presented Don Fralick his certification pin.

On the second Tuesday of the month, April 10th, a good crowd turned out for our monthly Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists meeting. Our president, Bill Zech, presented a discussion on our participation in the Azalea Festival. The visitor participation at our Azalea Festival booth was minimal, also at the Seed Bomb demonstration table at the Arboretum. With another festival in the fall pending, plans are underway to find ways to improve the booth's visuals and possibly the site location to hopefully draw more attention our way. Brenda Marshall volunteered to head this endeavor. Please see her with your ideas. This should be a concern for all of us. Without interest in our program we can't grow. Without growth, we are limited in our effectiveness.



Robert Webb was the winner of our monthly drawing. He is now the proud owner of a collapsible walking stick which also doubles as a monopod for a camera.

With Earth Day, less than 2 weeks away, Julia McCormick presented a sobering presentation regarding the plastics pollution crisis that exists in our world today. Scientists predict that if nothing changes in our plastic consumption habits, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish (by weight) Every human on earth relies on the oceans to survive in some way or other. We all need to learn how to reduce our impact on plastic pollution in the ocean and help remove the massive amounts of plastic waste already in the environment. Search online at



[www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov) for a document entitled "Household Hazardous Waste: A Guide for Texans" to learn how you can help the situation. Visit this website: <https://m.youtube.be/okZIMfcqj4> and countless others online, then ask yourself, "do I really need that bottle or that straw?"

*"A true conservationist is one who knows that the world is not given by his father but borrowed from his children." — Audubon*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Here are some interesting facts about the dandelion flower:

- The dandelion is the only flower that represents the 3 celestial bodies of the sun, moon and stars. The yellow flower resembles the sun, the puff ball resembles the moon and the dispersing seeds resemble the stars.
- The dandelion flower opens to greet the morning and closes in the evening to go to sleep.
- Every part of the dandelion is useful: root, leaves, flower. It can be used for food, medicine and dye for coloring.
- Up until the 1800s people would pull grass out of their lawns to make room for dandelions and other useful “weeds” like [chickweed](#), [malva](#), and [chamomile](#).
- The average American recognizes thousands of logos for commercial products, yet recognizes fewer than five plants that grow in his/her area. Dandelions are most likely one of those familiar plants.
- The name dandelion is taken from the French word “dent de lion” meaning lion’s tooth, referring to the coarsely-toothed leaves.
- Dandelions have one of the longest flowering seasons of any plant.
- Seeds are often carried as many as 5 miles from their origin!
- A not so fun fact:** Every year Americans spend millions on lawn pesticides to have uniform lawns of non-native grasses, and we use 30% of the country’s water supply to keep them green.



—mydandelionisaflower.org



The Jasper County Farmers’ Market will once more be opening on MAY 5, 2018. Open each Saturday during the growing season from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon in the Tractor Supply Parking Lot .

Come out, enjoy springtime and support your local farmers and gardeners. Look for locally grown vegetables and fruits, honey, homemade jellies, jams and preserves from our area, and lots more. Naturalist’s service opportunities are available by helping vendors with set up and tear down. Come check it out! You’ll be glad you did!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### May—

**2nd—HeadStart program—Succulents w/ Julia McCormick**

**5th— Big Bird Sit @ Martin Dies Jr. Park Observation Bridge - sunrise to sunset**

**5th— Farmer’s Market—Tractor Supply parking lot—1st day of Spring season 8-12pm**

**8th— Chapter meeting @ Jasper Courthouse Annex—6pm Program— Wildflowers of Texas/M. Eason**

### June—

**12th— Chapter meeting @ Martin Dies Jr. Park —6pm**

**16th— Follow-up Fieldtrip to E. O. Sieke State Park**

## Service Participation Survey Results from 20 surveys

has participated	Wants to participate	Activity
10	2	Martin Dies Jr. Park - Nature Center Staff
13	0	Martin Dies Jr. Park - craft/art or group activity
1	10	Martin Dies Jr. Park - trail guide
3	2	Martin Dies Jr. Park - paddle guide
9	3	Martin Dies Jr. Park - service project
12	2	Farmer's Market
13	1	Friends of the Park
8	1	Headstart
13	2	American Trash Off
15	1	LRMN Booth at Festival/Event
11	1	McQueen's Landing Clean-up
6	6	Big Sit Bird Watch
8	4	Eagle Count
4	1	Feeder Watch
12	2	Citizen Science Project

*Don't forget to enter your hours at <https://txmn.org/tmn-vms-users>.*

# Friends of the Park Report



The mission of the Friends of the Park is to support Martin Dies Jr. State Park in achieving its mission, goals and programs through volunteer work, fundraising and stimulating interest in the park to potential visitors. Most of the funds used to help the park comes from the firewood that is made available for the campers.

Seven members and 3 guests met at the Martin Dies Jr. State Park on April 19th for the 1st quarterly meeting of 2018. New officers, Keith Stephens, president, Lori Horne—Vice-president, Hugh Pickle—Treasurer, Sharon Lamoreaux—Secretary, Beth Pickle and Garry Lamoreaux—Board members, were present. Taylor Jones and Chuck Hubbard, park managers were also in attendance to update us on issues that we can help with.

Interpreter Amy Kocurek is due back from maternity leave the second week of May. She has been sorely missed.

Check online at

<https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.phpclass=OppSearchResults&recruiterID=1353&geoarea=5117&activity=2344&type=all> for dates open to help man the Nature Center.

The storage building that the Friends of the Park provided for the park has been set up beside the nature center. Materials for shelving have been provided. The building will be used to store items that the Nature Center uses for various activities and demonstrations for visitors to the park.

Due to our rainy spring, some locations on the hiking trails and in some parking lot areas are holding water. Trails are being closed off due to the excessive water conditions. The Friends of the Park group voted this month to purchase four sixteen ton loads of base rock to improve these situations. A new paddling launch will also be created by the foot bridge to the Island walking trail. A concrete pad with ADA sidewalk access will hopefully be installed under the pavilion behind the Nature Center soon.

To promote visitor participation, ideas to combine the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dam to Dam bike ride with a Canoe/Kayak rally on the Neches/Angelina are being discussed. Details are pending. Also pending is an Pre-1840s camping demonstration by Jasper's Bevil's Rangers which will be a two day event culminating in a sing-along, story-telling campfire on Saturday night hopefully in November of this year.

Mary Hamilton was voted in as a new member. Come and become a Friend of the Park. They need our support.

# Keep Jasper Beautiful Trash-off 2018



On April 7th, volunteers from Lowes, Walmart, Jasper Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Jasper, the Jasper Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists along with local citizens and the Miss Jasper pageantry Queens cleaned up several locations around downtown Jasper, Hwy 190, Hwy 63 East/West, MLK, South Jasper, Prospect Road and Pollard St. Over 2000 pounds of debris was picked up and put in large containers on Water St. at the Outdoor Learning Center. Donuts and coffee fed the morning run, supplied by Walmart. Hot Dogs completed the day, provided by your Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

—Article submitted by Brent Meaux



### Why did you want to become a Master Naturalist?

*"I love nature and want to help the community. Want to get others in the area more interested in conservation issues"* — Laura Clark

*"To learn about nature and be a better steward of our environment."* — Claire Boutee



### What is your favorite focus as a Naturalist?

*"Concern for the protection of natural resources, animals for now and future generations."*  
- Lanny Marshall

*"Want to learn more about conservation of native plants, natural habitat"* - Joanie Kochanek

*"Conservation—I want our country to think about the future of our people."*—Brenda Marshall

Responses from the Newsletter survey— January Chapter meeting

## Martin Dies Jr. State Park



### Canoe Trips



The Walnut Slough Paddling Trail, Sandy Creek Paddling Trail and Neches Paddling Trail are three trails through and around Martin Dies, Jr. State Park that offer a variety of experiences on the park’s back-water sloughs along Spring Creek, the wide open B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir, and the fast-moving Neches River. These trails are open to the public, but guided tours are also offered.

The park has 3 paddling guides, two of which belong to our Chapter. Phillip Hight and Lanny Marshall ( 2 of our newest Master Naturalist members) are both certified level 2 river guides, taught by National Park Rangers and certified by the American Canoe Association. Laura Clark (also a member) helps with a lot of the trips.



Routes are selected by the guides according to the wind and weather, but all are very scenic and usually under 2 hours. This past winter was very cold and killed a lot of the vegetation which opened up more areas for paddling. Wildlife is everywhere. You’ll see alligators, turtles, wading birds, ducks and more. You’ll be surprised how close you can get to the wildlife without the noise of an outboard motor running.

There is no charge for the paddling trips. The park furnishes up to 6 canoes, paddles and PFD’s for these trips, but if you have your own canoe or kayak, you’re welcome to bring it, just be sure to sign up at the park to reserve your spot. Paddling trips are usually scheduled once a month during warm weather. Watch for dates to be posted in advance on the park website: [https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/martin-dies-jr/park\\_events](https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/martin-dies-jr/park_events) Will meet you there.



MEMBER'S

CORNER

