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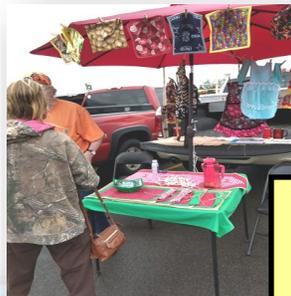
A Time of Endings and Beginnings



Head Start

Head Start finished up it's 2017-2018 school year on May 2nd with instruction in planting by Claire Boutee and her helpers. With a lesson on what plants need for survival, the children potted annuals for their mothers for Mother's Day. Head Start will resume again in August.

*"To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose
under heaven."*



Farmer's Market



Plants, veggies, and jams, oh my!!! These are just a small selection of the booths at the first Farmer's Market for the 2018 growing season. Vendors and wares were plentiful and so were the patrons. Lots to see, do and take home. The market will continue on Saturday mornings, 8am— noon until August. Don't miss it!!

Both HeadStart and the Farmer's Market are opportunities for service credit. Need more information? Email me sherlmx@gmail.com and I'll point you in the right direction.



Two groups from the SFA STEM Academy came to MDJSP in May to participate in educational and entertaining activities. The groups enjoyed guided canoe trips and for many of them it was the first time in a canoe. They performed lake dipping and examined the arthropods living within the lake vegetation. There were many interesting finds as well as squeals of delight when the scuds jumped out of their specimen cups. The final exercise at MDJSP was a hike around the Island Trail. They were told stories about the history of the area as well as the ecological impact of the area. After all this, they were whisked away to Dam B for lunch and were provided a presentation about the history of B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir and the Dam. The Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalist volunteers were Don Fralick, Janette Johnson, Lanny Marshall, and Robert Webb. They were joined by Gerald Lanham, Drew and Patricia Beetle, Master Naturalists from the Orange Chapter. In an email from the SFA STEM staff, they stated that the MDJSP experience was rated as the #1 field trip for the school term. Ranger Amy Kocurek would like to thank all the Master Naturalists for making this a successful program with hopes that more will come in the future.



SFA STEM Academy
 @ MDJSP

UPCOMING EVENTS

June—

3rd,10th,17th,24th — Volunteers needed @ Martin Dies Jr. Park Nature Center —9am-noon
12th— Chapter meeting @ St. Michaels Church —6pm Peter Loos—Native grasses and forbs
23rd— Nature Center training @ MDJSP

July—

1st,8th,15th,22nd,29th — Volunteers needed @ Martin Dies Jr. Park Nature Center —9am-noon
7th— Follow-up Fieldtrip to E. O. Siecke State Park
10th—Chapter meeting @ Martin Dies Jr. Park —6pm Richard Peters—Bats
21st—Guided paddling tour @ Martin Dies Jr. Park. **Registration required**

Check: https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/martin-dies-jr/park_events for more opportunities for service credit

Big Sit Report

For the fifth year, LRMN members participated in the 'Big Sit' tournament, part of The Great Texas Birding Classic, May 5, at Martin Dies, Jr. State Park. This category requires birders to set up a stationary spot in order to observe and document bird species. Teams across Texas participate in this event.

The group of 12 turned in 41 different species sighted in 12 hours, 50 minutes. Last year's total was 39 species but a greater number of birds.

Participants included Claire and Doug Boutte, Sharon and Garry Lamoreaux, Phillip Hight, Sue Singletary, Laura Clark, Robert Webb, Sandy Brent, Janette Johnson, Amy Kocurek, and Georgia Purdy.

A Bald Eagle and a Swallow-tailed Kite generated the most excitement, plus a number of park visitors stopped by to ask questions and view a large poster of bird photographs put together by Laura Clark.

——article submitted by Georgia Purdy



Red Wing ed Black Bird



Green Heron



Anhinga

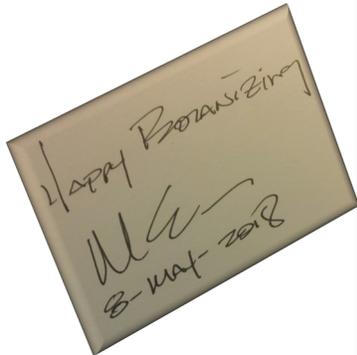


Great Egret



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

May Chapter Meeting



Our LRMN Chapter shared its May meeting with Jasper’s Master Gardeners to host author Michael Easton. Michael presented a very informative program with photos and descriptions of the wildflowers of Texas. He was very learned in the location diversity of wildflowers across the state and has spent lots of time in the field collecting information for his impressive field guide.

Focus on Nature - Wild Flowers



Silky Camelia — Lori Horne



Texas Spiderwort — Janette Johnson



Pale Lobelia — Phillip Hight



Sabine River Wakerobin (Trillium) — Sharon Lamoreaux



Echinacea Sanguinea — Laura Clark



Texas Bluebonnet — Bill Zech

Focus on Nature— a new theme each month. Submit your favorite photo . June’s theme — “Among the Pines”

A NOTE FROM MDJSP

As visitation grows, the demand for resource interpretation, programs, and extra help does too. Take a look at the diversity in our visitor base. Take a look at the population trends of Texas. We must reach folks and provoke thought in order to preserve these special places.

Amy does a fantastic job. In fact her role is so vital that I modified her job description to focus 90% of her time on interpretation and outreach while most parks still have dual role and sometimes triple role interpreter positions. Even with that change, Amy is too valuable in her role to be confined to the Nature Center every weekend (which has a maximum capacity) when there are 221 sites, day use areas, trails and neighboring parks, partnerships and community outreach.

Please consider volunteering to help run the Nature Center. Your help can be related to the training Amy is offering, or if weekends and people aren't your thing, we always have custodial, maintenance, preventative maintenance, and project needs! You know, the behind the scenes work that takes place before and after the crowds come.

More regulatory red tape requirements are eating away our manpower and time. Volunteers are vital to creating good memories for our visitors.

Taylor Jones
Superintendent
Martin Dies Jr. State Park

Watch for events to be posted in advance on the park website:
https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/martin-dies-jr/park_events

