



## November's Chapter Meeting

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### **President**

Bill Zech-resigned  
due to health reasons

#### **Vice-President**

Lori Horne

#### **Treasurer**

Joanie Kochanek

#### **Secretary**

Sharon Lamoreaux

#### **Advisor**

Brock Fry

### CHAPTER COMMITTEE POSITIONS

#### **Programs**

Lori Horne  
Laura Clark

#### **Siecke Signage**

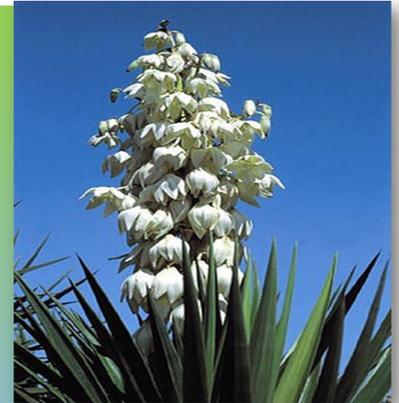
Laura Clark  
Lori Horne  
Sue Singletary  
Sharon Lamoreaux  
Brenda Marshall

#### **Newsletter**

Sharon Lamoreaux

# YUCCA

Yucca was the topic of November's Chapter meeting. Sharon Lamoreaux presented the program which included its uses for food, hygiene, medicine and as fiber. About 15 members participated in the hands-on process of scraping the yucca blades to access the fibers and make cordage for wrist bands.



Mary Hamilton won November's door prize which was a Sabercut Chainsaw.



### **Officers for 2019.**

Sharon Lamoreaux was elected as president, Lori Horne will continue as Vice president, Laura Clark was elected to serve as secretary and Joanie Kochanek will continue as treasurer.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December—

1st— Eagle Hike @ MDJSP 10am -11:30am

5th—Head Start - Tree Growth—Claire Boutte, Sandi Brent

5th—Deadline to register for Growing Up Wild course \$35 contact Claire Boutte [fdclaire@gmail.com](mailto:fdclaire@gmail.com)

11th—LRMN Christmas Party—6pm— Gift Exchange—Bring something of or about Nature—Pot Luck

13th—Friends of the Park Christmas party—Belle Jim, 6pm \$12.50 for meal, gift exchange-\$25 max.

### January—

3rd—LRMN board meeting—Agrilife office—1pm

8th—LRMN Chapter meeting—Program pending 6pm MDJSP Dining Hall

11th—Growing up Wild 3 hr. training session—Nacogdoches, SFA campus

12th—Eagle Count at Toledo Bend

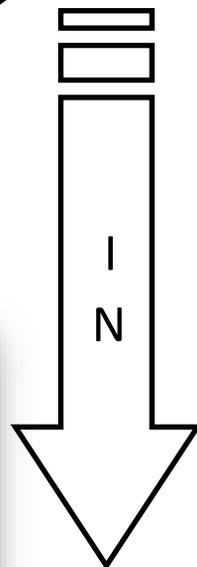
17th—Friends of the Park meeting -6pm—MDJSP Nature Center



Head Start—Contact Claire Boutte - [fdclaire@gmail.com](mailto:fdclaire@gmail.com)

Martin Dies Jr. State Park - Contact Ranger Amy at [Amy.Kocurek.tpwd.texas.gov](http://Amy.Kocurek.tpwd.texas.gov)

E. O. Siecke Signage committee—Contact Laura Clark— [lauralucillemorgan@yahoo.com](mailto:lauralucillemorgan@yahoo.com)



LRMN volunteers, Phillip Hight and Laura Clark led a guided canoe trip at Martin Dies Jr. State Park on Saturday, November 3rd.





## Sandy Creek Park And Nature Trail



**A plan to develop Sandy Creek Park submitted by the Master Gardeners has won approval for technical assistance from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program.**

Representatives from NPS RTCA met with area leaders and representatives from the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists on November 16, 2018, to begin working on an implementation strategy.

After presentations on existing facilities and activities at Sandy Creek, as well as ideas for development, NPS’ Justin Bates remarked that there is “huge, untapped potential here” and “incredible recreation opportunities.” He committed the NPS to work two years on the project.

The long-term vision is to create an outdoor recreation district which will utilize Sandy Creek as its hub, and ultimately re-brand the Jasper community as a nature tourism mecca. NPS will assist in coming up with a name and logo. The hub will eventually connect Sandy Creek, and thus downtown Jasper, to public access points for paddling, hiking and other recreation at area parks, along the Neches River and Lake Sam Rayburn.

A brainstorming session narrowed the many ideas presented to focus the first year on acquisition of 65 acres to extend the park into an area that will remain undeveloped, offering visitors the primitive experience of hiking wilderness trails. The secondary focus will be planning and programming for the existing park, including ideas such as a footbridge from the Arboretum to the park making it easier to move festivals there, a spray ground for kids, education landing pads, and interpretive signage. Both strategies will emphasize youth engagement and diversity among stakeholders involved.

Expected outcomes for the first year will be the establishment of a “Friends of Sandy Creek Park” group, advisor group, identification of representatives for a stakeholder group, and a blueprint for trails on the 65 acres, along with associated costs and potential sources of funding.

Brent Meaux, who submitted the original application for the project, and Laura Clark, representing the Master Naturalists, walked the NPS representatives through part of the park after the meeting and exchanged ideas on site.

Article submitted by Laura Clark

This is an exciting time for Jasper. It’s going to be great to see this develop. I’m sure there will be many opportunities for volunteers of all natures during construction and afterwards to introduce it to the public. Stay tuned for more information as it develops.

## Educating our Future with the Ways of the Past



On Saturday, November 10th, several members of Bevil's Rangers, (aka Longleaf Ridge Master Naturalists, aka Friends of the Park officers), set up to demonstrate the ways of early East Texas settlers. Taking advantage of the Veteran's Day long weekend, the park was full of scouts and school groups that were enjoying camping, hiking, biking, etc. The Rangers were demonstrating how to sharpen tools with a grinding wheel, starting a fire without matches, making bullets, cooking over an open fire, shaping wood for tools with a shaving horse, and making cordage from yucca.

**Pioneer [pahy-uh-neer] n., One who goes before to prepare or open up the way for others to follow.**

**Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd ed. (1989)**