

The Laffites Cove Nature Society
Board of Directors Meeting

The Laffites Cove Nature Society Board of Directors held a Board meeting on January 10, 2015 at the Galveston Country Club. Jim Walters, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.. A quorum of Directors was established by the attendance of Jim Walters, Ben Hock, Steve Alexander, and Brenda Dawson. Susan Gonzales with CKM was also present.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November Board meeting. Motion by Brenda Dawson and seconded the Board approved the November 8, 2014 minutes as presented.

The Financial and collection report was given by Ben Hock. Two Certificates of Deposit (CD) matured and we now have three cd's. Motion by Brenda Dawson and seconded the Board accepted the financial and collection report.

The work day on November 15 was held with approximately 15 volunteers. We have been working with Shaneyfelt. On January 31st the Student Conservation Association will be helping with work in the preserve.

Dr. Steve Alexander stated they are working to keep the trails and pathways clear and the evasive plants from taking over. Plans are to get the open areas mowed. Steve stated we have interviewed two contractors. They have chosen Ryan Lucas and will obtain a W-9 and insurance Rider naming the LCNS as "Additionally Named Insured". The landscape company does environmental and conservation work. We do not want deep ruts. Mowing helps to keep the woody plants from overtaking the grassy areas. Usually that is controlled by fire, but we cannot do that in the preserve. Mowing is the primary way to control the type of growth. We want to maintain a grassland prairie. We have 3 habitats, trees, swales, and grasses.

Dr. Alexander has put together a list of invasive species and those that don't belong in the Preserve. In the wood and prairie areas are the Macartney Rose. The swale areas are suppose to be open but are covered in Rattle Bush. In the next few months we will start control measures in these areas.

We are also working on trying to separate the snakes from the birds by elevating the watering areas. For bird viewing we are working on improvements. The areas with seating provided are for watching birds.

Discussion was held on laminating the recent rules and placing them in certain locations. The question was raised as to sending out additional rules notification to members via the website and mailing. Need to have more "no dogs". May need additional signs.

Canal buoys - need owners notified to observe "no wake" zone. Susan to check on LED blinking lights or boat traffic lighting for the buoys. Susan and Jim Walters will work on canal no wake rules.

Discussion was held concerning policing during not only July 4th but New Years. LCNS will be hiring an officer for both events and may coordinate it with Pirates POA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m. Susan Gonzales, Recording Secretary