

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2025

Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

Call to Order: Brian called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Roll Call: Present - Brian Vassar, Jim White, Denise McCabe, Carolyn LaHatte, Mason Holland, Miguel Rodriguez, Calvert Huffines, Dara Sinclair (phone), Travis Bryan

Absent – Andy Kidd, Arty Allen

Visitors – Deb White

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of August Executive Minutes: Miguel made a motion to approve the executive committee minutes from August; all approved.

Review and approval of August Finance Report: Denise distributed the August finance reports. The ending checkbook balance as of August 31st was \$19,213.79. Miguel made a motion to approve the August financial report; all approved.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

September – Firewise USA- excellent presentation by Michael Koorey and Donnie Arp, 27 members in attendance (probably due to inclement weather)

October – Fall presentation by Miguel, Volunteer Job Fair for L&W sub committees and the upcoming Tamarack Treasurers sale by Deb White.

November – Dara to present “Homeowner Natural Habitat Certification for Residents” program.

December – Jim Pryor’s annual year-end review.

Board Liaison Report – Arty reported at the Partners Meeting that the budget meetings will be held the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays in October, with the BT Annual Meeting to be held on October 12th at 2:00 pm.

BTCI – Travis – marked the trees for the deck/stage at the beach pavilion. His department is currently understaffed and having difficulty hiring workers.

Mission, Vision, Planning – Rick submitted a list to Jim Pryor regarding the proposed updates to the Beach Recreation area.

2026 Co-chairs, committees – Brian has agreed to co-chair for 2026; co-chair for Tamarack Treasures needed for 2026 (Deb White to step down in 2027)

Sub-Committee Updates:

Wildlife – Miguel reported 3 instances of feral hog activity near Denny Ridge. Coyotes have been spotted. Geese are under control. Continuing with bear safety and education. The deer count will be conducted in late October. Turkey population appears to be decreasing.

Trails/Hiking Club – September hike - Jekyll Island. October hike - Kennesaw Mountain.

- Memorial Garden trail property swap – LAD Committee proposed a property swap or another lot for investment property to the homeowner and is waiting for their response.
- Sallie Doss workday is scheduled for October 25th – Travis to supply 2-3 loads of mulch, fix parking lot stops, and take out picnic table at Sallie Doss chimney.

- Trail sign renewals – Jim requested renewals or new sponsors for 7 trail signs. Payment was received from all of them, totaling \$2,800.

Special Projects – Powerline maintenance – gave all new volunteers guidelines on maintaining the areas under the powerlines (may need to use an herbicide on hard-to-reach selected areas.) Need to recruit new people to fill vacancies.

Fundraising – Tamarack Treasures Holiday Edition is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th from 9:00-2:00 pm and Sunday, November 9th from 1:30-3:00 pm. Donations will be collected on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th from 10:00 to noon. Volunteer sign-ups are in progress.

January donation collection will be held on Monday, January 12th at the admin parking lot.

Tamarack Treasures Event Dates for 2026; Spring sale – week of April 12-20. Holiday Sale – week of November 9-16.

KBTB – re-opening of the cottage is scheduled for Sunday, September 14th.

Habitat Conservation – Natural Gardening Residential Program/web site – Dara to meet on Thursday with AC Committee on property maintenance and what's acceptable.

Walk the Talk with BTCL – Brian worked with Daniel & Lawson Pest Company to get rid of all bait stations. As of August 1st new bait stations were installed that are securely locked, weighted, bait cannot be removed, non-toxic, bar coded to determine activity, organic bait sodium based so no secondary poisoning.

Vacant Lot Green Zones – Dara to inquire with LAD for 5 lots that they would set aside for green space to be used for wildflowers, etc.

Communications – Wildlife Wednesdays – Miguel
Social Media - Dara

Lakes and Streams – installed a fish cleaning station at Sallie Doss. Stream work recertification at the Cottage on November 15.

Silt project/dredging – a passionate discussion ensued regarding the rejection by the BOD to approve the purchase of the Weedoo Silt Sucker Dredging machine. The meeting adjourned with the decision to provide more information to the executive committee regarding the costs associated with this purchase and alternatives to this purchase. **A revised motion will be made by L&W, requiring all executive committee members to vote by email for or against the proposal by Friday, September 12th.**

Special Events – co-chair still needed for LuAnn's position.

Sunshine – three cards were mailed in August (1 get well, 1 sympathy, and 1 thank you.)

Adjournment: 6:45 pm

***** The motion below carried with 7 members voting yes plus one late yes vote on September 15.**

Lake and Wildlife; along with the request of the Bent Tree Foundation, in order to reduce silt in Lake Tamarack, recommends the Bent Tree Board of Directors reconsider the Weedoo equipment along with other dredging options, and the 2024 5-year dredging plan. We request the Board include a silt reduction dredging plan, and dollars to fund it in the 2026 budget. Lake and Wildlife will continue to be involved in the dredging committee in helping BTCL develop that plan.

