

Motorola Austin Alumni Club:

General Meeting: Nov 12, 2019, at the North Lamar Senior Center

President Mike Coley called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. with Jim Binneboese saying thank you to all the Veterans for your service. Mike announced the agenda for the meeting and a reminder to anyone who needed to pay their dues, please do so and announced that anyone could also pay for the Christmas party.

Secretary's Report: The **Minutes** of the previous general and board meetings will be published in the newsletter to be sent out by Danna Redford.

Speaker: Mike introduced Ron George as the speaker for the meeting to talk about the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Ron George grew up on a small farm near Greenville, Texas where he gained an early interest in native plants and animals. He has a Masters' degree in Range and Wildlife Science from Texas Tech University and served as wildlife biologist in Iowa and Texas for more than 13 years. Much of his early work involved pheasants, quail, doves and their habitats and later served as Deputy Director of the Wildlife Division of the Texas parks and Wildlife Department until his retirement in 2005. He is a Past President of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Past Chairman of the Migratory, Shore, and Upland Game Bird Subcommittee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and guest lecturer on wildlife conservation in the People's Republic of China,

Ron is a former U.S. Air Force Captain, K.C-135 jet tanker pilot, and a Vietnam Veteran. He is currently a Texas Master Naturalist, President of Austin Fine Arts Photographers and a docent at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and is the author or co-author of more than 60 publications on wildlife science.

Ron talked about Texas native plants (those here before the settlement of Texas). Some have been around for 250million years, pines around 200 million years and flowering plants around 100 million years. There are over 5,000 species of native plants and many have beneficial properties such as Yaupon Holly which has caffeine in the leaves and can be made into a tea and still other plants can have medicinal qualities. The advantages of native plants ... they are adapted to our soils and climate, need less water, fertilizer or pesticides and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Ron gave a history on Lady Bird Johnson and the Wildflower Center. Lady Bird was born in Karnack, Texas, on December 22 1912 as Claudia Alta Taylor and was nicknamed Lady Bird by one of the family servants, She was married to Lyndon Banes Johnson who became President of the United States in 1963 following the death of President John F Kennedy, More the 200 laws related to the environment were passed during his presidency. She was known as the Environmental First Lady. In 1982 she founded the National Wildflower Research Center with actress Helen Hayes. The center was originally located in east Austin and offered tours to the public in 1985. In 1993 42 acres were purchased to expand the Wildflower Center. When asked by the

architect what it should look like, she answered “like God Made It”. In 1997 the Center was renamed for Lady Bird. And in 2007 it was named as the Research Center for the University of Texas Horticulture Program. Mrs. Johnson passed away in 2007.

The Lady Bird Wildflower Center is located at 4801 La Crosse Avenue in Austin, Texas and is a 286 acres site dedicated to inspiring the conservation of native plants. There is 2 miles of accessible trails, 12 acres of native plant gardens, 52 large scale research plots, 4 acres of family gardens and a 16 acres arboretum, the Center gets 200,000 visitors a year. The Center is planning a new entrance due to construction of an overpass at Mopac

Ron introduced Leslie Zachary, Assistant Director of Development, who had handouts for their magazine Wildflower, 2019 Fall/Winter guide of the Center’s activities, and a Membership pamphlet. Memberships in the Wildflower Center help support the programs they have during the year. They also have scholarships available. She talked about 4 types of structured and non-structured school field trips for pre-K to 5th grade.

- A) Learning stations for groups of 30-60 students with fun, enriching structured experiences for children to learn about plants, wildlife and ecology while exploring the Center.
- B) Small Group Guided Walk Field Trip provides classes from 5-29 students with structured nature walks through the Center focusing on a variety of natural habitats.
- C) Nature Play and Explore Field Trip for pre-K classes up to 44 students featuring structured hands-on activities, story time and a nature walk.
- D) Self-Guided Field Trips for pre-K through 12th grades are for unstructured visits of groups of 5-180 students and allow school groups to create their own curriculum to match their current areas of study.

They also have Summer Wildflower Camp. At Camp Wildflower, children become conservationists, botanists, horticulturist, citizen scientists and ecologists as they explore native plants and the environment. Activities include hikes, arts and crafts nature games science labs, outdoor explorations and learning sessions with Wildflower Center experts. Scholarships are \$325 per week.

The Wildflower Center can always use volunteers to help around the center with a variety of activities such as planting new gardens or helping with tours.

Officer Elections: Mike Coley displayed the slate of New Officers to be elected for the coming year. Mike is stepping down as President and Obie Hasty is stepping down as Treasure,

President	Jim Binneboese (1 year term only)
Vice President	Sandra Lawell
Treasure	Cal Gooden
Secretary	Janet Tidwell

Continuing their role in Volunteer Positions:

Newsletter	<i>Danna Redford</i>
Membership	Warren Wiemann
Picnic	Wayne Harned
Website	Ray Voith

Christmas Party: Sandra Lawell & Sherry Sullivan.

Treasurer's Report: Obie Hasty gave the members an update on the treasures report and the changes in the scholarship fund numbers and the changes for the money collected for the Christmas party.

Scholarship: Jim Binneboese passed out papers with the new criteria talked about the Gary Daniels Scholarship program. The changes in the criteria should bring in more applications for this year. Applications are due in by the 31st of May. All children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of Motorola Austin Alumni Club Members in good standing can apply. Applications are on the club website maacweb.org. Applicants will have a personal telephone interview from the selection committee of Mary Jane Harned and Bill Pfaff. Scholarship money is remitted to applicant's college of choice to help with first year expenses. Our plan for 2020 is to select candidate(s) in June and make the Award in August. Jim also mentioned we had an offer for a new \$1,000 scholarship to U.T, School of Engineering to go for a 1st year engineering student. The money would come from an anonymous donor and the scholarship would be separate from the club scholarship fund. Outside donated funds can also be made to this account to increase its value.

Christmas Party: Michael gave an update on the Christmas Party for any new members. Our Christmas Party will be on Monday Dec. 9th at Maggiano's and the cost is \$35 per person. Dec 2nd is the last day to get your reservations in.

Next Meeting: February 11th @ 10am at Lamar Senior Activity Center..

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings, usually held on the second Tuesday of the first Month of each quarter, at the North Lamar Senior Center. Verify the date with a board member before attending, as it sometimes changes.

Website: <http://www.maacweb.org/index.html>.

Our newsletters are posted on the web.

Please let us know of any changes in your name, address, email, phone# etc.

In Memoriam: Jim Monaco, Clarence Mehlow, and Jerry Munch

The meeting adjourned for pizza at 11:20AM. Lunch and Bingo was enjoyed by all. We did have a drawing for the Scholarship raffle and presented the winner his prize.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Tidwell, Secretary of Motorola Austin Alumni Club