Texas Master Naturalist

El Camino Real Chapter

Chapter Meeting - June 13, 2013

Gause Fire Department

**Call to order:**Meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by President Katherine Bedrich

**Attendance:**  Cindy Travis, Don Travis, Cindy Bolch, Dorothy Mayer, Rich Cromwell, Barb Cromwell, Cindy McDaniels, Gary McDaniels, Katherine Bedrich, Linda Jo Conn, Jeanette Patschke, Sherry Colley, Lucy Coward, and Ann Collins.

**Secretary:**Ann Collins

Cards were sent to Mary Waldson, Joyce Dalley, Sue Taylor, John Pruett, Fleur de Lys Garden Club.  Address is needed for Amber Rios.  Motion was made to accept the minutes by Lucy Coward and seconded by Don Travis.

**Vice President:** Donna Lewis

Program on archeology on the 22 of June.

**Treasurer:**Cindy Bolch

Report is attached.  $209.04 was taken from the general fund to cover the overage for advertising for the Nature Festival.

**Board Chairs:  2012-2013**

**Advanced Training and Volunteer:**Phyllis Shuffield

No report.

Dates posted on agenda.

**Membership:**Debbi Harris

Report is attached.  Pins for re certification were not given out.  Debbi thanked the membership for work on the Monarch Station at the Memorial Garden in Milano.  She requested that milkweed seeds be collected as available.  It was requested that the programs she and Sandra have presented by evaluated.  Any work done on the garden needs hours recorded for possible future grant monies.

**Communications:**Don Travis

Articles are needed for the next newsletter.  The deadline for submissions is June 15.

**Historian:**Barb Cromwell

Barb requested pictures of our activities by sent to her.

**Host:**Cindy McDaniels

Finger foods and snacks will be needed for the program at Fisher's Lake on July 11.  Food for the meal will be decided later.  No food for the Archeology program.  Bottled water will be provided.

Cindy thanked the membership for bringing food to the meeting.

**Training Class:**  Dorothy Mayer

We have no names for the fall class.  The class will probably be during the day on Friday.

**Projects and Announcements:**

Nature of Milam County  June 28 at Wilson Ledbetter Park in Cameron

Bluebird Boxes at Bird Sanctuary - A good group showed up to assess the state of the boxes.  They were cleaned of House sparrow nests.  One was decided to be beyond repair and was removed.  They will be checked again on June 28.

Update on Bats - Cindy B spoke about the proposed development near Braken Cave.  The City of San Antonio declined to approve progress due to the fact that future problems may occur as the bat's flight will be over the development.  Cindy volunteered her time to help BCI.  1300 signatures were on a petition to deny development.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Katherine will be manning a booth at the Thorndale Cook-Off on June 22.  She asked for help with the project.  The theme will be on insects and pollinators.

**Nature Stories:**  Experiences were shared and show and tell was enjoyed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dorothy at 7:45.  Motion was seconded by Cindy McDaniels.

Lucy Coward presented a program about Monarch Butterflies in her garden.

**Addenda:**

The Nature Festival was discussed.  Barb Cromwell volunteered to chair the event if the membership decides to continue it.  Barb has had experience in planning and supervising large events.  She hopes to place more emphasis on teaching at the festival as well as having fun activities.  Barb will contact individuals who have chaired booths in the past for input and evaluation.

The city of Rockdale has asked us to come back next year.  The facilities at Fair Park work very well for our needs.  Don will be meeting with the

tourism board to discuss how funds may be spent and will request that the city be responsible for insurance for the event.

Volunteers will be needed to help facilitate the event during the planning stage.  Everyone needs to participate so that the chair / chairs don't have to carry all of the burden.

Discussion will continue in September when dates will be chosen.

Linda Jo suggested that we might look into purchasing a trailer to store the equipment and supplies for the Festival.

Elections are coming up and the nominating committee will be appointed at the next Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:  Ann Collins, Secretary