**Texas Master Naturalist**

**El Camino Real Chapter**

 **Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**March 12, 2015**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Cromwell at 10:25am at the Milano UMC. Members present included: Nancy Adcock, Darlene Anglen, Katherine Bedrich, Cindy Bolch, Sherry Colley, Ann Collins, Lucy Coward, Barb Cromwell, Sandra Dworaczyk, Debbi Harris, Pat Holley, Donna Lewis, Dorothy Mayer, John Pruett, Debby Rolan, Kim Summers, Cindy Travis, and Don Travis.

**Order of the Meeting**

--Membership—Dorothy Mayer—Debby Rolan completed requirements for certification. Milestone award (500 hours) was presented to John Pruett. Recertification awards went to Minnie Pesl, Lucy Coward, Debbi Harris, Donna Lewis, Don Travis, Cindy Bolch, Ann Collins, Katherine Bedrich, and Dorothy Mayer. Since the beginning of the chapter, members have earned 5,935 hours of advanced training. In 2015, 253.5 hours have been earned to date. In February 210.5 hours. were recorded. Volunteer hours earned since the chapter’s beginning total

47,306, and this year to date equals 1041.5 hours. Members recorded 829.5 volunteer hours in the month of February.

--Volunteer Management System—Cindy Bolch reported the new management system for reporting volunteer hours will be online, and this chapter will be using the system as soon as possible. (hopefully April)

--A.T./V.E.—Kathy Lester. Absent. No report

--Historian—Debbi Harris--requested members to consider being on historian committee. These members would help cut articles from local newspapers. Volunteers: Sandra Dworaczyk will cover Rockdale and Sherry Colley will cover Cameron.

--Communications—Don Travis--brought sets of annual booklets for members to purchase at $5 each. The next newsletter’s deadline will be April 15 for submissions.

--Treasury report—Cindy Bolch

 Beginning balance--4134.32

 Ending balance--4154.84

 The report will be filed for audit. Katherine gave Cindy 137.27 from Wildlife Management workshop lunch collection.

**Projects/Announcements**

--April 9 meeting on bugs at community center at 2:00

--May 14 meeting-- Cindy Bolch presents bats at Milano Methodist Church. 6pm

--June 11 meeing--Ann Collins and Dale Kruse on flower pressing. 6pm location tbd

--Milano Junction Memorial Demonstration Garden—Workday has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 24, at 9am. A plant sale will be held in early April. Nectar and milkweed plants will be available. Native milkweed can be pre-ordered. Please contact Debbi at cr234loop@yahoo.com or text 254-760-6110 by March 21 with the number of plants needed. Cost per plant will be $2.50 to $3.00/plant. .

Bluebird boxes—Katherine Bedrich One of two things—either take care of them or take them down. After a vote of members present, it was decided to keep the boxes. Nancy and Clyde Adcock will chair the committee and take care of the boxes repair/replacement. Chapter members signed up for a month or two to be responsible to check the boxes during the month. If there is a problem with a box, members are asked to contact Nancy or Clyde, and they will handle the problem. (quiltlady346@gmail.com or text or call 337-288-7119) Once or twice a year, a note will be sent to people for interest in bird boxes.

--Nature of Milam county—Katherine Bedrich **Sand County Almanac** March 31, 9am Journaling. Read “March” and “Wisconsin”

--Floridus Maximus—John Pruett—meet at ecrdltnht sign on County Road 429, March 25, 1:30. Documentation on information at Don’s. Taxonomy class at Herbarium

--Bird Tales—Cindy Bolch—Winnie L. project continues on the first and third Thursdays at 2pm to present additional birds. Other Thursdays residents are working on lap blankets and recording their tales. Journaling. Everyone welcome!

--Bell County—another nature festival inviting us to bring booths. October 10 Cindy will do bats

--Dorothy—workshop training Friday, March 27, Housing Authority Building in Cameron 9-12 with Bob Baldrich “Be Ready for Bugs” stinging bugs and what can be done Brown bag Info coming

--Cindy—March 10 Good Water Chapter Bats training class;

--Bell County Newcomers Club March 4—backyard birds The club will give Cindy $50 check for her presentation, and it will be donated to Bird Tales.

--Donna Lewis--Wildlife and Woodlands in Conroe March 28 all day. Contact Donna if interested.

--Survey—greatest interest in plants, followed by birds. Barb would like to find people who will take the lead in these and other interests. There is a need to take the survey another step and determine specific interests of the chapter. A goal is to develop programs and projects tailored to members’ interests. It is desired to set up projects and outings to fulfill the interests of members.

 Cindy Bolch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Donna Lewis. The meeting adjourned at 12:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Adcock