



El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist

Regular Meeting/Party

Dec. 9, 2022 6 p.m.

Milam Community Theater

408 S. Columbus Ave, Cameron

- I. Call to order
- II. Vote on revised chapter operating handbook (COH) and Revised state CMOP.
Joyce Conner moved to accept and Cindy Travis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Dinner
It was delicious. Thanks to Liz Lewis for arranging the catering from Thorndale Meat Market and for Catherine Johnson and all the other volunteers who set the tables, decorated, and helped put things away.
- IV. End of year report
 - A. **President** Carolyn Henderson (see attached)
 - B. **Vice president** Liz Lewis – thanks to all who have helped out with finding speakers.
 - C. **Treasurer** Mike Connor – after covering party expenses, we should have around \$5K in the treasury again. We have lots of paid dues, but don't forget to send your dues to Mke if you haven't yet.
 - D. **Secretary** Sue Ann Kendall – thanks to all who read the minutes and help with corrections and clarifications. Blog report attached.
 - E. **Membership director** Lisa Milewski – report attached. Milestones:
 - a. Michelle Lopez initial certification and first year certification

- b. Linda Jo Conn 5,000 hours
- c. Donna Lewis 10,000 hours
- d. Please do not forget to go into VMS and edit your profile information, which is required each year.
- F. **Communications director** Don Travis – celebrating 15 years in his role of setting up tools for others to use.
- G. **Student training director** Kathy Lester (not present) – 12 interested in the next class but only one has filled out the paperwork
- H. **AT director** Pamela Neeley – let her know if you have ideas for activities not sponsored by TAMU or AgriLife.
- I. **Activities director** Donna Lewis – April 22 is Earth Day. Planning will start in January.
- J. **State Representative** Linda Jo Conn – volunteer fairs hosted by the Texas Master Naturalist program have given her many opportunities for hours. Check them out! And of course, thanks to all who participate in iNaturalist. The WOW award winner is Marian Buegeler, who got a great photo of a rattlesnake.
- K. **Hospitality** Catherine Johnson – thanks for participating in the theme dinners at meetings, which will continue into next year. The theme for January is Mexican food. Bueno!

V. Awards

- a. **Patricia Coombs** was honored for all her help with meals and setup this past year, even though she is not a member of the Chapter. We are so grateful to her and are glad for her friendship.
- b. **Linda Jo Conn** received a framed certificate for attaining 5,000 volunteer hours. Her pin is on its way. We all thank her for her enthusiasm and encouragement.
- c. **Donna Lewis** received a framed certificate and her ruby pin for attaining 10,000 volunteer hours. She has meant so much to ECRTMN for planning speakers for years and for encouraging us to participate in Earth Day each year.
- d. **Lisa Milewski** received thanks and a certificate from all the members of our chapter. She has put in so much work to help us get our hours entered.
- e. **Don Travis** received an award for 15 years of dedicated service to the chapter in keeping us informed of all activities and opportunities, managing the website where all information about the chapter can be found, and setting up programs at meetings to keep them interesting.

VI. White Elephant Gift Exchange – fun was had by all, as far as I could tell.

VII. Close

A motion was made to end the meeting. It was seconded and affirmed.

Hours were 1.5 for setup

1 VT Chapter Meeting

1 hospitality if you contributed dessert or beverages.

Attachments: President Report, Membership Annual Report, Blog Annual Report

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary



Happy New Year!

El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist

End of Year Report 2022

Being president of our chapter has been a learning experience almost every day. Fortunately for all of us, I had great people to lead me along and answer all my questions.

Liz, Don, Lisa, Donna, Pamela, Sue Ann, Mike, Linda Jo, Catherine and Kathy have all either informed me, done things for me or encouraged me. Many did all three. With their help we returned to in person meetings and field trips.

We have had some interesting exploratory trips, and informative speakers. Some of our members have gone out of their way to help. A big thanks to Alan Rudd for having the whole club and the class of 2022 to his place on separate days to learn and eat. Eric Neubauer discovered a spider that had yet to be identified and then shared the information with us. Debbi Sorenson gave us an interest in vultures common to Texas. Debbi Harris brought worms to our May Day project which were of great interest to children and their parents. Between the worms and turtles, we had the most popular display at the event.

We took trips to Texas A and M University to see Professor Dale Kruse, curator of the S.M. Tracy Herbarium, and the species preservation department. We went to Mike McCormick's Purple Martin Farm and learned how he has developed such a huge following among the birds. . We learned tree girdling of Glossy Privets with Cliff Tyllick of Austin. Members of our chapter were interviewed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the ECR TMN wildscape's part in the award given to Gene and Cindy Rek. We were in the video. We hiked the Balcones Canyonlands Nation Wildlife Reserve with Manager Chris Harper. I should add we did not hike the whole 22,000 acres. And 10 members attended the TMN Annual Meeting in Houston. Lots of learning and great fun were had there.

Last, but not least, is the excellent attendance at regular meetings by a large number of our members. Active membership increased. Interesting speakers got them there. We are planning for next year's class.

We bought some new equipment but have recouped the money with a small increase in dues and a generous donation by one of our members.

Next year, we hope to do even more activities like the above, have more volunteers, and increase our knowledge and volunteer service in our communities.

Thank you.

**ECR Chapter Meeting
Friday, December 9, 2022**

Membership Report by Lisa Milewski:

Awards:

Recertifications:

Michelle Lopez

Milestones:

Linda Jo Conn – 5,000 Hours (11/10/22)

Donna Lewis – 10,000 Hours (7/20/22)

Statistical Information:

November 2022

VS – 289

AT – 27

Volunteers - 22

Year to Date (January 1 – December 12, 2022)

VS – 4,261

AT – 941.75

Volunteers 38

Cumulative (January 1, 2008 – December 12, 2022)

VS – 59,281

AT – 8,211

Volunteers 47

Reminders:

- 1) Membership Dues (\$30.00) for 2023 due by January 1, 2023 to Mike Conner, Treasurer (members not current in dues are not eligible for awards and will be moved in VMS to inactive status until current in dues)
- 2) "Edit My Profile" to sign off on waivers and authorization for background check – this is done annually in December. If you forgot how to do this, please email me and I will send you instructions

ECR TXMN Awards

2022

<p>January 13, 2022 None</p> <p>February 10, 2022 <u>Recertification:</u> Linda Jo Conn Donna Lewis</p> <p><u>Milestone:</u> Eric Neubauer – 500 Hours</p> <p>March 10, 2022 None</p> <p>April 14, 2022 <u>Recertifications:</u> Carolyn Henderson Catherine Johnson Sue Ann Kendall Kathy Lester Lisa Milewski Don Travis</p> <p><u>Milestones:</u> Carolyn Henderson – 250 Hours</p> <p><u>Special Against All Odds "Through Grit and Distance" pin for those who achieved 8 AT/1 VS in 2021:</u> Connie Anderle Scott Berger Marian Buegeler Linda Jo Conn Joyce Conner Mike Conner Sandra Dworaczyk Jackie Fields Debra Harris Carolyn Henderson Catherine Johnson Janice Johnson Sue Ann Kendall Larry Kocian Kathy Lester Donna Lewis Liz Lewis Lisa Milewski Pamela Neeley Eric Neubauer John Pruett, Jr. Phyllis Shuffield Debra Sorenson Kim Summers Sharon Sweet Jackie Thornton Cindy Travis Don Travis Carol Williams</p> <p>April 28, 2022 – New Students Class Completion & Graduation <u>New Student Class Completion:</u> Linda Burgess Victoria Everett Donnie Grigg Michelle Lopez Cindy Rek Gene Rek</p> <p><u>Initial Certification:</u> Cindy Rek Gene Rek</p>	<p>May 12, 2022 <u>Recertification:</u> Marian Buegeler Joyce Conner Pamela Neeley Debra Sorenson</p> <p>June 9, 2022 <u>Initial Certification:</u> Michelle Lopez <u>Recertification:</u> Ann Collins Sandra Dworaczyk Larry Kocian Jackie Thornton</p> <p><u>Milestone:</u> Debra Sorenson – 250 Hours</p> <p>July 14, 2022 <u>Recertification:</u> Debbie Harris Eric Neubauer Cindy Rek Gene Rek</p> <p>July 20, 2022 Donna Lewis – 10,000 Hour Milestone</p> <p>August 11, 2022 <u>Recertification:</u> Connie Anderle</p> <p>September 8, 2022 <u>Recertification:</u> Scott Berger Mike Conner Liz Lewis Alan Rudd</p> <p><u>Milestone:</u> Scott Berger – 250 Hours</p> <p>October 13, 2022 <u>Initial Certification:</u> Victoria Everett</p> <p><u>Recertification:</u> Janice Johnson Sharon Sweet</p> <p>November 10, 2022 <u>Recertification:</u> Phyllis Shuffield</p> <p><u>Milestone:</u> Marian Buegeler – 250 Hours Linda Jo Conn – 5,000 Hours</p> <p>December 9, 2022 <u>Recertification:</u> Michelle Lopez</p>
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Blog Statistics 2022

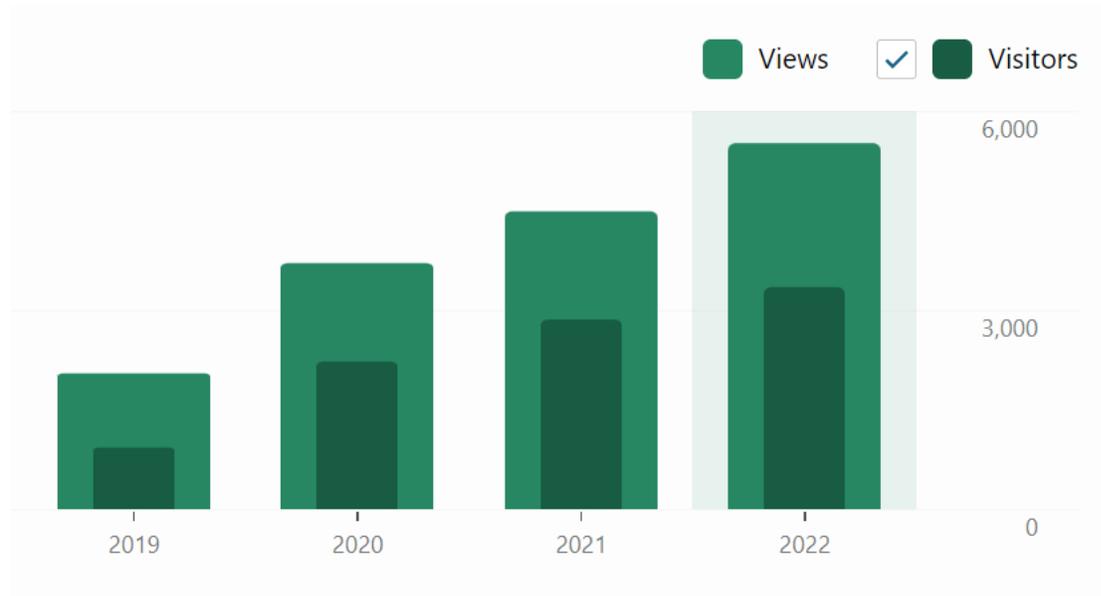
Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary

Blog posts: 116 (Wow!)

Views as of 12/12: 5,512 – increase of 23% over last year

Visitors: 3,344

Comments: 55



Most popular post: Alternatives to Feeding Sugar Water to Bees

Followers:

- 105 WordPress
- 22 Email
- 345 Social Media

Thanks to all who contributed posts! Let's have more next year!