**El Camino Real Texas Master Naturalist Minutes**

March 9, 2023 5:30 P.M. All Saints Episcopal Church

1. Welcome
	* 1. Pot luck dinner featuring fresh bass and “the best hush puppies we have ever eaten” – Many thanks to Alan Rudd and family for cooking for us.
		2. Speaker – Texas Master Naturalist Debbi Harris spoke about worm composting. 6 pm – 6:45
			1. She has a handout you can ask her for that goes over what foods worms will eat: cr234loop@yahoo.com
			2. Uncle Jim’s is the place to get your high-quality starter worms: <https://unclejimswormfarm.com/>

1. Meeting 7 pm
	* 1. TMN 25th Anniversary Logo – see attached. Available for use for our events. It will appear on some shirts in the beginning of April.
		2. Our chapter is 15. Go us. We will celebrate in the summer at some point, as soon as they know when it is. Liz Lewis is organizing our celebration.

* + 1. Earth Day is April 22

1. We will plant trees now and later. First there will be two cypress trees by the Orchard Park and at Wilson Ledbetter Park.

* + - * 1. Linda Jo Conn notes cypress trees are not native, and Ann Collins and Jackie Thornton agreed.
				2. On the other hand, all our ponds aren’t native, either, but things live there, so why not plant them, asks Alan.
				3. Planting will happen as scheduled.
			1. In the fall we will plant redbuds and oaks (native) at Wilson Ledbetter Park.
			2. Donations will be accepted to purchase the trees. We also already have a donation.
			3. Our chapter is not doing the Spring Fling event in Cameron on March 25, because it is different this year and is a partying event and goes through the evening. We would prefer not to do that.

D. April is National Volunteer Month

* + - 1. Carolyn is looking for ideas to celebrate us, because we are volunteers under the auspices of Texas Master Naturalist and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Our mission is to learn about conservation of native species, share the knowledge, and implement efforts to conserve native species.
			2. Please send ideas. Otherwise, Carolyn will plan something.

That was a threat.

* + 1. Lists of statewide activities for TMN chapters are located here: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/events>and <https://txmn.tamu.edu/news>

Some of these are open to participation by members from other chapters.

* + 1. There is an online store for TMN at <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/> . Stock is low now, but it will be refilled by the end of March. The new 25th anniversary logo will be on some of it.
1. Board and department reports A. Liz Lewis, VP – not present.

B. Mike Conner, treasurer - not present. Provided via email:

* + - 1. Current Balance: $5987.15
			2. 42 Members have paid their 2023 dues.

C. Sue Ann Kendall, secretary – please approve minutes for January and February.

* 1. Sandra Dworaczyk moved and Kim Summers seconded
	2. Thank you to Debbi Harris for doing the February minutes.

They looked great.

1. Lisa Milewski, membership – not present, but there were two 2023 recertifications:
	1. Michelle Lopez
	2. Donna Lewis

1. Don Travis, communications – not present.

1. Pamela Neeley, AT authorization
	1. Linda Jo proposed a bastard cabbage project in the chapter email from last week. We need to help eradicate it.
	2. If you report it, you can get hours. Reporting in eradication activities Cit. Sci. – Invasive Species: TMN Field Research

Hours

* 1. You can also eat the plants.

1. Donna Lewis, project coordinator – Earth Day is coming.

1. Kathy Lester and Alan Rudd, student training
	1. From Alan: This Saturday is the first field trip for the 2023 class. They are going to the Post Oak Savannah office in Milano. If anyone who is not a student is coming, please let Kathy know.

1. Linda Jo Conn, state cheerleader
	* 1. Dorothy is not here, and she is the only one who reported her haul. She said she pulled up 37 bastard cabbage.
		2. WOW Award was to Linda Jo for recording her first whooping crane on a trip with Jackie and Ann. Great photo. They went on a boat tour in Rockport and Port Aransas at the Aransas National Wildlife something. She saw the Big

Tree at Goose Island. They got to meet crane fans from the northern US.

* + 1. She is also a big fan or the Great Birding Classic. It’s worth the money. Please sign up.
		2. Carolyn: Adopt a Loop are wildlife viewing areas that will give you credit for reporting. But they removed the nice wild one in Redbud.

1. Catherine Johnson, hostess, Wildscape coordinator
	* + 1. She handed out information on All Things Wild. On April 1 we are going there. It is approved for hours. They have donkeys to protect the deer they are rehabbing.
			2. March 18 is the next Wildscape workday. There will be free wildflowers.
			3. End of April is an Antique Rose Emporium tour.
			4. May 4 there will be a mason bee program at the Wildscape with homeschool children (Thursday).

1. Janice Johnson, weekly email coordinator. If you need email addresses, they are on our website. The new class will be on the site soon, and Linda Jo plans to update the iNaturalist list.

1. Old business
	1. None
2. New business: Neil Wettstein
	1. He is a Bastard Cabbage volunteer and will go pull it for you.
	2. He would like to learn about what the birds he hears by a river are, without an app or any form of electronic device.
	3. Alan reports April 21 is when the painted buntings arrive.
3. Adjourn
	1. Victoria Everett moved to adjourn, there were numerous seconds. .75 for the presentation and .75 for the meeting. 1 hour if you contributed to the potluck

