**El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist**

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2023 - 5:30 P.M. - All Saints Episcopal Church

1. Welcome
   1. Pot Luck – theme is finger foods
   2. Speaker – Camille Wiseman, ecologist. Topic is “Recognizing Trees Native to our

Area and the state of trees after two freezes and other weather extremes”

6:07 – 7:30

The focus was on recovering from recent disasters and preventing damage during construction. Big takeaway: post oaks are delicate creatures.

1. Meeting
   1. News: Carolyn showed everyone the *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine 100th anniversary issue and encouraged members to buy a copy if they don’t subscribe. It’s a beautiful keepsake.
   2. Upcoming chapter activities

1. **Mother Neff State Park** field trip Saturday, April 15. Carpools will meet downtown Cameron on the square and leave by 8:30 a.m. The field trip includes a guided tour by the park’s TPWD college intern, which will provide AT hours. We can also possibly earn VS hours via iNaturalist by reporting observations through the Adopt a Loop program (see below under Linda Jo Conn). The tour starts at 10 a.m.

Mother Neff is in Bell County.

Directions are: Take Hwy 36 to FM 236. The link below opens a Google Map of the site.

[https://www.google.com/maps/place/Mother+Neff+State+Park/@3](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Mother+Neff+State+Park/@31.2641327,-97.6409844,11z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x86455e70b7b28c69:0x3daf0bace0726935!8m2!3d31.3342487!4d-97.467859!16zL20vMDlsd2x4)

[1.2641327,](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Mother+Neff+State+Park/@31.2641327,-97.6409844,11z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x86455e70b7b28c69:0x3daf0bace0726935!8m2!3d31.3342487!4d-97.467859!16zL20vMDlsd2x4)

[9844,11z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x86455e70b7b28c69:0x3daf0b ace0726935!8m2!3d31.3342487!4d-97.467859!16zL20vMDlsd2x4](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Mother+Neff+State+Park/@31.2641327,-97.6409844,11z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x86455e70b7b28c69:0x3daf0bace0726935!8m2!3d31.3342487!4d-97.467859!16zL20vMDlsd2x4)

[-](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Mother+Neff+State+Park/@31.2641327,-97.6409844,11z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x86455e70b7b28c69:0x3daf0bace0726935!8m2!3d31.3342487!4d-97.467859!16zL20vMDlsd2x4)

[97.64](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Mother+Neff+State+Park/@31.2641327,-97.6409844,11z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x86455e70b7b28c69:0x3daf0bace0726935!8m2!3d31.3342487!4d-97.467859!16zL20vMDlsd2x4)

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* + - 1. **Earth Day Program:** El Camino Real chapter members will give a presentation about bees as part of a program in Rockdale sponsored by the Rockdale Rotary in honor of Earth Day. The program will be held at Lucy Hill Patterson Library on Thursday, April 20 at 2 p.m. It will be open to the public.

* + - 1. **Earth Day Saturday April 22** - chapter members will plant trees at Cameron parks (City Park and Orchard Park). We will meet at 10 am at City Park in Cameron to start. This park is located at the 300 block of E 4th Street/Hwy

190. After planting the tree at nearby Orchard Park (1204 E 6th St), we’ll eat

lunch to celebrate our volunteer efforts. We plan to obtain a burr oak and another oak to plant.

4. **Graduation party for Class of 2023.** April 26, 6 p.m., All Saints Episcopal Church. It should cost $10-15. We need a head count, so if you haven’t let Carolyn know yet, please do so. There was a sign-up sheet at the meeting. We will pay for the meals on the night of the party.

And hooray! The class photo was in both Rockdale and Cameron newspapers.

C. Planning for **TMN Annual Meeting of 2023** is underway. It’s the 25th anniversary of TMN, so it’s going to be a big event.

* + - 1. You can already book the hotels.
      2. The following link will take you to the TMN page that has lots of information

–<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annualmeeting/>

3. Submission for judged events is September 15. Anyone can vote on the art or chapter project submission on October 3. See site above for more information.

D. **Lion’s Club Annual Auction Basket** – we are donating a basket full of things a master naturalist would like/use to the auction. If you have an unused item to add to it, we need it by April 24. The last day to donate is the day of the party. Bring it to Carolyn Henderson’s office at 204 N Fannin.

1. Board and department reports
   1. Liz Lewis, vice president: John Pruett is the May speaker to talk about the El Camino etc. trail. June will feature Ann Collins and Mike Mitchell speaking on Chapter history to celebrate 15th anniversary.

* 1. Mike Connor, treasurer: out of town. $6091.55 in the bank. 42 members have paid dues, not including new class.

* 1. Sue Ann Kendall, secretary. Move to approve the March Minutes: Victoria Everett moved, Second: Kim Summers. The motion passed.

* 1. Lisa Milewski, membership:

a. Lots of recertifications and achievements to recognize.

i. 2023 Recertification

Connie Anderle

Ann Collins

Joyce Conner

Mike Conner

Sandra Dworaczyk

Carolyn Henderson

Catherine Johnson

Sue Ann Kendall

Kathy Lester

Lisa Milewski

Jackie Thornton ii. Milestones:

1) Larry Kocian - 500 Hours 2) Jackie Thornton - 500 Hours

* + - * 1. No travel hours for admin.
        2. Please put hours in .25 hours increments (.25, .5. .75, 1, 1.25, etc.)
        3. No hours can be reported more than 45 days after the event occurred.

* + 1. Don Travis, communications: He helped print the beautiful bee brochures we will be handing out at events, and he made many updates to our VMS guide.

* + 1. Pamela Neeley, AT/VS approvals: not in attendance.

* + 1. Donna Lewis, project coordinator: Everything was covered earlier.

* + 1. Kathy Lester, student training: She’s DONE with another class. Standing ovation!

* + 1. Linda Jo Conn, state cheerleader: City Nature Challenge starts in two weeks. Please participate. There are metroplexes included, but we want to beat them! We are the Heart of Texas. Please do register.

Saturday the walk with the intern is AT. If you want VT it’s for the GTWT Adopt a Loop project.

Wilson Ledbetter is Prairies and Piney Woods West PPWW013a. Mother Neff Park is PPWW 033.

Please join the El Camino Real (Milam County) iNaturalist group as well.

* + 1. Catherine Johnson, hostess and wildscape coordinator: She said thanks to all who donated to the pantry. We have sufficient supplies now. Catherine brought some plants and a list of tough plants. This Saturday is a Wildscape day for anyone who isn’t going to Mother Neff. May 4 will be a children’s program for the homeschool co-op. 10-12. You can help set up or tear down before and afterwards.

1. Old business Patricia Coombs is the new class member who’s already certified.

a. There is a water class coming up and there is a free book we could take.

1. New business –

a. Sue Ann’s coyote story – it was in her garage. It eventually made its way back to the woods with the help of the guardian dogs.

1. Adjourn Victoria Everett moved, Kim Summers seconded.

1. Presentation AT: 1.5, Meeting VT: 1.25, Hospitality: 1 if you brought food.