El Camino Real Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

Chapter Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2023 All Saints Episcopal Church 5:30 p.m.

1. Welcome

* 1. Potluck Dinner 5: 30

* 1. Speaker 6 p.m. – Dr. John Pruett spoke about the historical El Camino Real Trail from the perspective of a priest who accompanied Jose Domingo Ramon as they created the route to El Camino Real. They walked about twenty miles a day! FM 908 is a road you can see a lot of the sites from. The talk was followed by Q&A.

1. Meeting 7:00-ish
   * 1. Carolyn Henderson: The Texas Master Naturalis Annual Meeting will be held in October in

McAllen. If you’re going, reserve a room now. Many people are staying at the Homewood Suites. Don’t forget there will be a solar eclipse during the meeting!

* + 1. Upcoming events – Note that the planned McKinney Falls field trip has been canceled.
       1. Wildscape Workday May 20 1-3 pm

* + - 1. Walk the Rancheria Grande June 3 at 10 am Mike and Joyce Connor’s place. About 20 people plan to come. Park along the driveway and carpool if possible. Cedar Hill Ranch on CR 2095 just before you get to Gause.

* + - 1. Quarterly board meeting Friday, June 2, 11 a.m., All Saints Episcopal Church

C. Carolyn suggested that we buy books for the Rotary Little Free Library on the County Annex grounds – board will vote in June.

* + - * 1. *Nature Play at Home: Creating Outdoor Spaces that Connect Children with the Natural World* by Nancy Striniste $16
        2. We can donate to the local libraries as well, including perhaps school libraries. We would need to check the rules for schools.
        3. Please send other recommendations for good nature books for young people to Carolyn.

1. Board and Department Reports
   1. Liz Lewis, VP – next month is a birthday party for the chapter. We will have a presentation from Ann Collins and Mike Mitchell. Other original members will be honored and asked to speak.

* 1. Mike Connor, Treasurer – we have been spending a lot. Down to $4900. We have done some expensive printing. Noted that we got around $50 through the former Amazon Smile program.

* 1. Sue Ann Kendall, Secretary: Please approve minutes from last month. Moved: Sandra Dworaczyk. Seconded: Ann Collins. The motion passed.

* 1. Lisa Milewski, Membership

Awards from last month: Joyce and Mike Conner

This month: Marian Buegeler, Dorothy Mayer, Debbi Harris, Sharon Sweet (not present),

Alan Rudd

Many people are close!

E. Don Travis, Communications

Found a box of newsletters from 2008-2013. He offers them to the newer members. He noted that we won the best newsletter award at the annual meeting for three years.

He also has some brochures about the Master Naturalist program.

The blog chair would like to note that we have a very popular blog to which you can contribute anything you would have sent to a newsletter. Maybe it could win an award.

* + - 1. Pamela Neeley, AT authorization – nothing new

* + - 1. Donna Lewis, Project Coordinator – not present

* + - 1. Kathy Lester, Student Training – not present

* + - 1. Linda Jo Conn, State Cheerleader and iNat coordinator

She is happy to meet our new Lexington members, the Masons.

City Nature Challenge: she is proud of all participants. Michelle Lopez did the best, then Sue Ann, then Ann Collins…etc. (Secretary could not keep up). Dorothy Mayer added some observations in south Texas. By the way, Linda Jo was #1 in our Chapter and second overall, though she was too modest to mention it.

Aaron Lincoln praised all of us and said we have increased our observations and observers from last year. Sam K. pointed out that our data is used for research. d. Let’s keep it up!

J. Catherine Johnson, Hostess and Wildscape Coordinator

a. No news

1. Old business - none

1. New business
   * + 1. Pamela Neeley and Alan Rudd attended the Soils Field Day. Some teams had better equipment than others. They now know how to identify all sorts of soil types. We are going to work on having Jayme Douglas come do a program here.
       2. The County are re-doing the old professional building and AgriLife will have a place there. We will have a replacement for Floyd Ingram in July.
       3. We were in the Cameron newspaper for Earth Day.

1. Adjourn

Moved: Kim Summers

Seconded: Phyllis Shuffield

Hours: 1 AT for presentation, .75 for meeting, 1 for hospitality

# Party to Celebrate Our 15th Anniversary as a Chapter at June Meeting

