

Texas Master Naturalist – El Camino Real Chapter

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday Aug. 8, 2024 5:30 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church

- I. Welcome
 - A. Pot Luck – finger foods
 - B. Speaker – Jaclyn Wise, Michael Redmond, and Gary Westbrook of the Post Oak Savannah Ground Water District POSGWD. They showed how our local aquifers work and explained the work their agency is engaged in. This was a last-minute change. The scheduled person was unavailable. Thanks much to Jaclyn for stepping up.

- II. President's report
 - A. Annual meeting in San Marcos – registration fee goes up in mid-September. Be sure to book early to get the sessions you want. So far it looks like only three members have registered.

 - B. Wildscape program will be held on Monday, Aug. 19 from 6:30-9:30. There will be a celebration of five years of the Wildscape, a dedication of the bird station, a presentation on the full moon, and mothing. Anyone is welcome. Members can get AT or VT credit depending on what they do.

 - C. Carolyn is looking for suggestions for end of year party location, since the place we used last year is no longer available. Contact her if you have any suggestions.

 - D. Two members have rejoined the chapter:
 - a. Shawn Walton, class of 2009
 - b. Jackie Fields, class of 2018.
 - c. Welcome back!

 - E. There will be a Board meeting in September. Carolyn will share the dates.

- III. Board members and directors
 - A. Vice President - Liz Lewis: had to leave the meeting early.

 - B. Treasurer - Mike Conner:
 - a. Treasury has \$5800 in it. We aren't spending as much as last year.

- b. Sue Ann Kendall asked if it is possible to make donations to the chapter that are earmarked for a specific purpose, like the Wildscape or Bird Station. The answer appears to be yes, though it could more easily be done informally.

- C. Secretary - Sue Ann Kendall:
 - a. Phyllis Shuffield moved to approve the minutes from July; Pamela Neeley seconded.
 - b. Blog and Facebook statistics: We have 1600+ Facebook followers, 486 email blog subscribers, and 151 WordPress followers of the blog. The blog has had 33,255 hits since it started in 2019, with 554 posts (thanks to YOU chapter members), and 297 comments. Special thanks to Eric Neubauer, whose wolf spider articles drive a lot of traffic to the blog.

- D. Communications - Michelle Lopez: everything is fine.

- E. Membership - Patricia Coombs: the following awards were given out:
 - a. Janice Johnson received her 1,000 hour pin.
 - b. Mike and Joyce Conner recertified for this year.
 - c. Joyce Conner received her 4,000 hour pin, a beautiful certificate, and a letter from President Biden.
 - d. Congratulations to all for your dedication to our organization.

- F. VMS/AT Manager - Pamela Neeley: everything is fine.

- G. Student Trainer - Alan Rudd
 - a. It is time to start lining up the speakers for our class next year, so he is getting started with that.
 - b. We got many new student leads at the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Summit, so thank to the volunteers there.
 - c. Eric Neubauer is speaking at the Goodwater Chapter (Williamson County) in two weeks, and Alan is going along to see how a large chapter works, and if any of them have ideas for students in Milam County.

- H. State Liaison - Linda Jo Conn
 - a. There are many good opportunities to attend presentations. Please look at the weekly news email and attend some!

- b. The WOW Award went to Pamela Neeley and Liz Lewis, who both spotted a fascinating Headlight Beetle (*Deilater physoderus*), and it was the first observation in Milam County on iNaturalist.

I. Publicity - Linda Burgess – not present

J. Hostess - Ellen Luckey: The theme for next month's potluck is soups and stews.

K. Notifications - Janice Johnson: send in your event notices!

IV. Old business: Happy birthday to Jackie Thornton

V. New Business: Neil Wettstein invited the group to his house on August 31 to celebrate his 75th birthday.

VI. Adjourn

1.25 hours AT at a Chapter Meeting for presentation

.5 hours VT Chapter Meeting for meeting

1 hour Hospitality if you brought food