

# **Texas Master Naturalist – El Camino Real chapter**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**July 10, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.**

### **All Saints Episcopal Church**

- I. Welcome
  - A. Potluck – salads, but mostly Italian food was brought.
  - B. Speaker – Dr. Hutchinson, professor and Assistant Dean at Blinn College in Bryan. He spoke on how birds migrate.
- II. President's report
  - A. Money spent at the Board meeting on Tuesday, July 8.
    - a. Donation of \$400 to All Saints for use of their facilities for our many meetings each month.
    - b. Donation of \$100 to Gene and Cindy Rek to cover water used at the Wildscape and Wild Wings sites on their property.
    - c. Contribution of \$300 to be a sponsor at the 2025 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting
    - d. Reimbursement of \$130 to Catherine Johnson for heavy-duty landscape fabric for the Wildscape.
    - e. Reimbursement of \$431 to Sue Ann Kendall for copies of the updated Wildflower brochure and Milam County Bird Checklist.
  - B. Annual meeting agenda is available for viewing. Signup opens up in August. Look for the date and sign up fast.
    - 1. Debra Sorenson is a presenter on the topic of vultures.
    - 2. Mike and Joyce Conner have a presentation on the Rancheria Grande trail/Red Mountain. There are also two field trips to their property.
    - 3. You can sign up for 1 to 4 days of the event. Reserve a hotel now. The main one is full. Alternatives are listed on the [conference website](#).
    - 4. Do we want to donate a basket of wildflower seeds and brochures about Texas to be auctioned off at the event?
      - a. Sandra Dworaczek moved to approve, Carolyn Henderson seconded. The motion carried.
    - 5. If you have some very good photos showing ECR members at work, please send them to Carolyn H. She will get them put up on the “brag” photo show in the main gathering room. We do have many useful photos on the blog, as well.
  - C. Volunteer at the Wildscape. You can earn volunteer hours. Another option is to volunteer at the Wildscape outside the church building, which is overrun with Tree of Heaven, Crape Myrtle, and Common Persimmon plants.

- D. The Board voted to award Friends of El Camino Real Texas Master Naturalist pins to Linda Burgess's granddaughter for her help at the July 4 booth, and to Gene and Cindy Rek's granddaughter for helping at the Wildscape.

### III. Officers and Directors

- A. Liz Lewis, Vice President – Next month Mike Mitchell will speak on bats.
- B. Debra Sorenson, Treasurer –
  - a. Balance is \$6954.48 after the expenses noted in the President's report.
  - b. If you would like to get embroidery of our Chapter logo on a shirt you own, get it to Debra and she can have it done for \$10. She will bring them back at the August Chapter Meeting.
- C. Sue Ann Kendall, Secretary
  - a. We had six new blog entries in the past month.
  - b. Approval of June minutes: Alan Rudd moved to approve, Neil Wettstein seconded. The motion passed.
- D. Michelle Lopez, Communications – nothing new to report.
- E. Patricia Coombs, Membership/VMS/AT Hours
  - a. Recertifications this month:
    - i. Marian Buegeler
    - ii. Linda Burgess
    - iii. Dorothy Mayer (not in attendance)
    - iv. Pamela Neeley
  - b. Initial Certification:
    - i. Bill Drivdahl
    - ii. Tina Drivdahl
    - iii. Carolyn Muller
    - iv. Kit Thompson
  - c. Pins were given to the following people who earned them earlier:
    - i. Janice Johnson
    - ii. Eric Neubauer
- F. Alan Rudd, Student Trainer
  - a. There were interested people who visited the July 4 booth.
- G. Pamela Neeley, VMS/AT Authorization – nothing new to report.
- H. Linda Jo Conn, State Liaison/iNaturalist Specialist

- a. WOW Award for the month goes to Kay Fellows for an observation of a Texas Ironclad Beetle. It's great to see new folks contributing.
  - b. Moth Week is on July 19-27, which obviously is more than a week. Please sign up for the project on iNaturalist. You can make these observations on your own property.
- I. Linda Burgess, Publicity/Free Seed Library Coordinator
  - a. Thanks to all who attended the seed packaging day and to those who helped hand out seeds at the July 4 booth.
  - b. Remember that gathering seeds counts as volunteer hours.
  - c. Next seed packaging meeting will probably be July 22 at 6 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church. Check for verification.
- J. Ellen Luckey, Hospitality – Potluck theme for next month is appetizers and finger foods.
- K. Janice Johnson, Weekly Notifications – Please send in your events and committee meetings for all to learn about.
- IV. Other business
  - a. Phyllis Shuffield has agreed to staff a booth at the August 22 Landowner event in Caldwell. Additional volunteers are welcome.
  - b. Neil Wettstein thanked Alan Rudd for helping clean up a county road.
- V. Adjourn – Sue Ann Kendall moved to adjourn, and Michelle Lopez seconded. The motion passed.
  - a. 1.5 AT hours for the presentation
  - b. 1 VT hour at a Chapter Meeting
  - c. 1 VT hour Hospitality if you contributed to the potluck

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary