

Texas Master Naturalist – El Camino Real chapter

Meeting Agenda

November 13, 2025 5:30 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church

- I. Welcome
 - A. Potluck – Thanksgiving –everything was delicious, so thanks to all who contributed.
- II. Speaker – Timothy Siegmund, TPWD biologist. Tim spoke on the presence of black bears in Texas throughout history and up to the present. He went over his research on suitable re-introduction areas near the Red River.
- III. President's report
 - A. Sign up for end of year party – cost of meal will be \$15. If you are coming, please let Carolyn know. You can bring the money with you to the party. We will do the White Elephant gift exchange – it is optional.
 - B. Thanks to all the annual meeting volunteers
 - C. TMN - ECR Wildscape workdays every weekend in November – 9am to 12pm. Please show up and do what you can. There are jobs as simple as handing out brochures
 - D. We would appreciate volunteers to create the table decorations.
 - E. Thank you to Carolyn for her two years serving as Chapter President,
- IV. Officers and Directors
 - A. Liz Lewis, vice president – Paul Crump will be presenting in February.
 - a. Speak to Phyllis Shuffield if you would like to suggest future speakers.
 - b. Thank you to Liz for her years as Vice President
 - B. Debra Sorenson, treasurer
 - a. \$9608.36, which includes what is left of the H-E-B Pollinator Grant. We have spent \$900 of that.
 - b. Debra has filled out the AgriLife and IRS forms necessary to keep our 501c3 status.
 - c. Dues for next year are payable as of now. They are \$30.
 - C. Sue Ann Kendall, secretary
 - a. Minutes for October are approved. Kim Summers and Sandra Dworaczyk moved and seconded.
 - b. We had some great blog entries last month but could use more variety. Share what you see!

- D. Michelle Lopez, communications – shared a photo of the aurora borealis before her laptop died, for which she apologized. But hey, it happens to us all!
- E. Patricia Coombs, membership/VMS/AT hours – yearly numbers report
 - a. No numbers report
 - b. Three students have received their certification:
 - i. Teresa Brickey
 - ii. Tina Drivdahl
 - iii. Bill Drivdahl
- F. Alan Rudd, student trainer – Alan reminded us that we all are affected by veterans of the US Armed Forces, including ourselves, our families, and our friends.
- G. Pamela Neeley, VMS/AT authorization – no new excitement
- H. Linda Jo Conn, state liaison/iNaturalist specialist
 - a. There was a Backyard Birds talk by Wildlife Biologist, Brittany Perry last Friday at the Rockdale Public Library at 1 pm. Perry is our new TPWD contact.
 - b. Linda Jo is not seeing as many wild birds where she lives this year. She has eco-grief, as Mike Mitchell puts it.
 - c. There does seem to be an uptick in daddy longlegs (harvestmen) this year.
- I. Linda Burgess, publicity/ free seed library coordinator
 - a. Seed packaging is November 25 at the Cameron Public Library from 1-3 pm.
 - b. Linda asked if there is any interest in a plant exchange among chapter members (do not have to be native). Much interest was expressed.
- J. Ellen Luckey, hospitality – no theme next month, because we will be served food. The January theme will probably be Mexican food.
- K. Janice Johnson, weekly notifications – keep sending in your contributions and we will continue to have a weekly email full of things to do.
- V. Other business
 - A. Catherine Johnson distributed lovely plants and gave away a suitcase. She also brought many leaflets to take.
 - B. Donna Lewis donated plastic storage bins.
 - C. There was an article on the H-E-B grant in the Rockdale newspaper that appeared as a letter to the editor. This is good for reporting to the grant-givers.
 - D. We will be sending a report to the H-E-B foundation in December.

- E. Dorothy Mayer brought diatomaceous earth in case anyone wanted it for pest control. She noted it is good for fleas and ants.
 - F. Carolyn Henderson reminded people who bring things to the meeting to remember to take them home, since the church will not need them.
- VI. Adjourn – Sue Ann Kendall moved to adjourn and Alan Rudd seconded.
- 1.25 hours AT (Chapter meeting) for presentation
 - .75 hours for meeting (VT)
 - 1 hour Hospitality if you brought food

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary

