

Texas Master Naturalist – El Camino Real Chapter

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2026

All Saints Episcopal Meeting Hall

5:30 p.m.

Welcome

Potluck – Asian, Chinese, Mediterranean, Indian

Program: Zach Truelock of the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy presented a program on the snakes, frogs, and toads native to Milam County. He brought gray tree frog, green tree frog, plain-bellied water snake, and another snake as examples to look at and handle.

Zach noted that there will be an event May 29 at Cedar Hill Ranch, with TPWD participants. There are still some openings. Contact Brittany Perry for more information.

Brittany Perry provided additional information about her dove banding project and collected information on all the participants. She gave out bird seed to participants to spread to attract doves for easier catching.

Marian Buegeler – President report

Be sure to use the URL below to post logbook entries:

https://tpwd.samaritan.com/custom/1353/volunteer_login

Reminder: The **Pollinators for Texas** application period is April 1 through June 1. If you are interested in applying for this grant, board approval is needed beforehand. There will be two opportunities to ask questions: Tuesday, May 19 at 5 PM and Wednesday, May 27 at 6 PM.

The **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for October 22 -25, 2026 in Waco, Texas. They are currently accepting entries for the **Chapter Advisor Award**, the **Chapter Project Fair**, the **Annual Meeting Video Contest**, and the **Annual Meeting Photo, Art & Media Contest**. You can find all the information pertaining to these contests in the Master Naturalist blog at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/news/>.

There will be a **Fourth of July** event in Cameron on Saturday, July 4th. Booth spaces are free and the event runs from 5 PM to 10 PM. Carolyn Henderson moved to

have a booth. Sue Ann Kendall seconded and the motion passed. Carolyn H. and Michelle Lopez volunteered to staff the booth; others are welcome.

Phyllis Suffield – Vice President –

- The speaker for June is still to be determined.
- July is Jay Long talking about feral hogs.
- August is Cullen Simpson speaking about prairies
- September is Tim Siegmund presenting a project on monarchs he is working on

Sue Ann Kendall – Secretary/Social Media

- Dorothy Mayer moved to accept the April minutes; Michelle Lopez seconded. The motion passed.
- The wildflower walk at the Muller Ranch will be 10-2 on May 23. Invitations with address and other information has been sent via email to each member. Bring a lunch for a picnic.
- Sue Ann is late with blogs, but hopes her issues are over and she can catch up with the backlog soon.
- Michelle Lopez and Carolyn Henderson have been added as Facebook page admins.

Debra Sorenson – Treasurer – bank balance is \$7485.82 and there is #357.96 left in the H-E-B fund.

Patricia Coombs – Membership/VMS/AT Hours

- Recertifications: Carolyn Henderson and Sue Ann Kendall
- The next seed library meeting is May 19 at the Cameron Public Library at 1pm. Please bring seeds in brown paper bags labeled with the name of the plant and harvest date.
- Thanks to Bill and Tina Drivdahl for their work fixing up an old newspaper sales box so that it can be another seed library for outside the Lutheran Church.
- Patsy has a list of native Milam County plants.

Pamela Neeley – Advanced Training/Volunteer Service

- There will be a field trip to the McCormick property to learn more about Purple Martins and observe the housing he has created, with help from others, like Phyllis Shuffield's dad. It will start at 10 am. They have a nature trail and bathrooms to enjoy.

Linda Jo Conn – State Liaison

- iNat WOW Award – praise to future naturalist Zoe, who has been contributing to iNaturalist and placed highly on the City Nature Challenge for our county.
- Catherine Johnson was a featured volunteer on the main Texas Master Naturalist Facebook page.
- Debbi Harris did a presentation on bats in Rockdale last month.
- One of the Temple College students who presented his work at our meeting a few months ago won a first place award for his work, beating out students from larger schools.
- Pamela Neeley and Linda Jo both participated in the Great Birding Classic last month.

Catherine Johnson

- There are two new books available to members for reference.
 - *Night Magic*, by Lee Ann Henion – Ainsley read an excerpt. Phyllis borrowed it.
 - *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies*. Carolyn H borrowed it.
- Catherine recommends local bookstores like the one in Rockdale or bookstore.org for purchases. We will be getting more books from the H-E-B grant soon.

Linda Burgess – Publicity

See seed library information from Patricia Coombs above.

Ellen Luckey – Hospitality – next month's theme is vegetarian. Those of you who might starve may bring meat.

Other Business - none

Adjourn – Michelle Lopez moved to adjourn and Pamela Neeley seconded.

1 hour AT for presentation

.75 hours VT for Chapter Meeting

1 hour Hospitality if you brought food