

EL CAMINO REAL CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

Minutes for the meeting of April 14, 2008

Meeting called to order at 12:30pm

Officers present:

President Paul Unger

Vice-President Jim O'Donnell

Treasure Nancy Soechting

Secretary Katherine Bedrich

Chairs:

Don Travis, Paula Engelhard, Sandra O'Donnell, Kerri Cunningham, Anne Barr, Connie Roddy, Tense Tumlinson

Advisor: Michael Mitchell

Members: Lynda Lewis, Debbi Harris

Paul stated our chapter logo for the state is the Green Tree Frog.

Paul presented a motto: LOOK – LEARN – TEACH – CONSERVE

He said there are five skills of a good Master Naturalist:

Observation, Experimentation, Documentation, Questioning, Teaching

Nancy Soechting gave the Treasures report.

The time for graduation has been moved to start at 10:00am. A reminder to invite family and friends. The deadline for lunch orders is May 1st.

Program Committee Chair Jim O'Donnell said we need to move forward with our programs both short term and long term presentations.

A discussion to have monthly meetings after graduation. A thirty-minute business meeting with a one-hour program was suggested. Second Tuesdays with rotating times (day & evening) were suggested. The locations would be at different places. Our first monthly meeting will be June 10th at 6:30pm at Jim and Sandra O'Donnell's.

Debbi Harris discussed the Booth at the upcoming Dewberry Festival at Ledbetter Park. Bluebird houses and bird feeders will be sold. Members are working on these. Information sheets will be available on Bluebirds and feed for different birds. Debbi suggested a survey for the public to take and gather information on people interested in the Master Naturalist program. A door prize may be given for those who fill out the survey. Prices for the Bluebird houses were suggested; \$15, \$20; \$40 - depending on the wood.

Membership Committee: Kerri Cunningham said she is working on three projects:
1 – Getting class certified; 2-Keeping track of hours; 3-Compiling names and addresses.

Volunteer Service Projects Committee: Connie Roddy was told there is a list of 36 approved projects for our Chapter. The State suggest more than one person approve projects. A project must go through the Project Committee for approval.

Training Committee: Paula Engelhard stated the overall Chapter Master Naturalist program is under this committee. An evaluation form will be presented to the class for this current program. Her objective is to 1. Finish the current class 2. Form a committee for the next class. 3. Compile a list of perspective new trainees.

Communications Committee: Don Travis is working with web sites; and on a newsletter template. A community list for distribution of events was recommended. County Chambers; County newspapers, and Bea's Kitchen were mentioned. All items must be reviewed by the Communications Committee before publication. We may begin with a simple newsletter project. Post cards and business cards for the ECRC of TMN will be worked on.

Advanced Training Committee: Sandra O'Donnell proposed a survey of the members to compile a list of interest. Project Wild and Angler Training are two possibilities. Michael Mitchell mention there are not many opportunities for lengthy training.

Host Committee: Anne Barr was praised for her great organization through out the class programs. The committee will provide water, lemonade, tea, coffee, etc. for the monthly programs.

Historian – Tense Tumlinson will collect newspaper clippings; and maintain the Chapters history.

Communication between committees is vital. The Board and Chairs must help each other. This will only work if each person knows who needs the information. A type of spreadsheet for each committee was discussed. All Board members should be advised about the activities of the Chapter. A dated, and updated record should be kept.

The Board meeting will be on a separate date from the Chapter meeting. The Tuesday before the Membership meeting was accepted. Next Board meeting will be June 3rd 6:30pm at Nancy Soechting's. The Chapter meeting will be June 10th 6:30pm at Jim and Sandra O'Donnell's.

Motion to adjourn

Don Travis, seconded by Sandra O'Donnell. Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Katherine Bedrich

ECRC secretary

