

El Camino Real Chapter
Master Naturalist

Board Meeting—January 7, 2010
Mercantile Bistro, Cameron, TX.

Call to Order – 2 pm **Attendance:** Phyllis Shuffield, Cindy McDaniels, Gary McDaniels, Cindy Bolch, Ann Collins, Kim Summers, Paul Unger, Don Travis, Connie Roddy, Lucy Coward, Janice Pelzel, Dorothy Mayer, Katherine Bedrich

Approval of minutes- Board meeting November 19, 2010
Minutes were read and approved. Connie Roddy 1st
Cindy Bolch 2nd

Treasurer report – Dorothy Mayer gave the treasurer's report and listed members that have not paid dues for 2010. Our balance in the bank is \$4186.38 as of 1-7-10.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2010-2011

Membership – Cindy Bolch – Our data base is large. The last two years will be scrunched to make way for new data. Entering time was discussed. There will be additional work on streamlining volunteer time reporting.

A background check through Texas 4-H will be completed each year beginning with 2010. This will be a filled out and returned when paying dues.

Program- V.P. Phyllis Shuffield- Our next program will be at Cindy and Don Travis's home on 1-14-10. John and Jimma Byrd will be presenting "Bats – Agra-ecosystem".

Food and social time will be from 5 to 6 with the program beginning at 6 pm.

Phyllis reported on up-coming programs.

Cindy Walker-Honey

Ken Griffin- Wayne Fisher Ranch- constructing a facility for organizations to use.

April- dog wood trails

More information to come later.

Volunteer- Connie Roddy- Adopt- A- Highway/Plant I.D. will be January 16, 2010 at 10 am. The time will return to 8 am as the weather gets warmer.

April 10, 2010 is the Texas Trash Off.

Planting trees on Arbor Day will be considered for next year. This project will be referred to the Big Tree Committee.

2 large, magnetic signs will be purchased from Rockdale Signs for the chapter. The signs will have the words:

El Camino Real
Master Naturalists
Milam County

Our frog emblem and possibly a dragon fly will be included on the signs. Lucy Coward made the motion to do this. Janice Pelzel seconded the motion. Cost of signs is \$85.00

Historian- Lucy Coward- wants supplies for making a scrap book. She plans to make it 12 X12. She will write an article, listing her needs, to ask for possible donated materials from the membership before purchasing anything.

Hostess- Cindy McDaniels stated a need for a coffee pot. Ann Collins will donate one to our chapter.

Advanced Training- Lisa Davenport- Invasive Species Workshop- March 27, 2010 Cameron Chamber 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Travis Gallo from the Lady Bird Johnson Center will be presenting. The morning will be classroom instruction with outside work in the park that afternoon.

Communication- Don Travis- Don has made a photography web site. He plans to work on making it easy to share our photos. His mission is for us to be able to communicate with the world. Communications will go through either Don or Cindy Bolch. Weekly events will continue to go through Paul Unger.

Training- 2010 Class

Lisa Davenport has expressed an interest, as Chair. We will probably have a 2010 class.

Nature Festival –Ann Collins

The next meeting will be 1-12-10 at an Ann's home. Tony Lafferty, Lynda Lewis, and Janice Johnson are the judges for the Nature Festival slogan contest. The winner will be announced at the 1-14-10 meeting.

The Nature of Milam Co. Project- Katherine Bedrich

The next meeting will be January 28, 2010 at 10:00am at Katherine's.

Unfinished Activities:

1. Chapter Operating Handbook review- Ed Burleson, Cindy Travis, and Sandra Dworaczyk have accepted this assignment. Members will be informed at the January meeting about making changes. Changes will be voted on at the March meeting.
2. Full tax exemption status- State Comptroller-Paul Unger- Paul has not heard and will follow up on this.

New Activities:

1. Christmas Tree mulch- January 9, 2010- Debbi Harris
2. TMN Annual Meeting – October 22-24 2010-
Millennium Seed Bank- Presentation by MG and MN-
Ed Burleson and Flo Oxley

3. Interest Groups- Discussed where they belong. They began as an outgrowth of the Nature Book. Someone needs to be responsible for groups to report to. This will be discussed later.
4. Budget. Each standing committee chair will have up to \$25.00 to spend. The President can spend up to \$200.00. Expenses beyond these amounts will need to be brought to the Board for approval. Don Travis made this motion and Lucy Coward seconded it.
5. Be sure to use the name El Camino Real Chapter Master Naturalists.

Our next board meeting will be March 25, 2010 with time and place to be announced later.
The meeting was adjourned.