

What is this?

This is our graduation ceremony, held for the newly-formed Milam County-based El Camino Real Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program.

From January until May, our 24 community-area adult volunteer students-in-training completed over 40 hours each of training.

This training encompassed five field trips, eleven classroom lectures, and over 33 subject matter experts, who came before the group and presented education about natural resource-based topics.

These folks have or are also putting in over 40 hours of volunteer work annually, along with 8 hours of advanced training annually.

Texas Master Naturalist is a venture directed toward developing local corps of "master volunteers" to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts.

In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.

Graduates

Anne Barr
Katherine Bedrich
Cindy Bolch
Ed Burleson
Kerri Cunningham
Vivian Dixon
Edward Dworaczyk
Sandra Dworaczyk
Paula Engelhardt
Lucile Estell
Bonnie George
Joy Graham
Debbi Harris
Lynda Lewis
Jim O'Donnell
Sandra O'Donnell
Connie Roddy
Phyllis Shuffield
Nancy Soechting
Donald Travis
Jack Tumlinson
Tense Tumlinson
Paul Unger
Ed Voss

Mentors

Thank you to our mentors
Ann Collins and Mary Waldson.

El Camino Real

Throughout our history, roads have existed as symbols of progress and growth.

The Kings Highway, rather than one road as the name implies, was a system of trails following paths used by original inhabitants prior to the Spanish incursion into Texas.

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail was a series of roads which linked us in Texas with our neighbors to the south and which played a major part in our development as a state. The 1691 – El Camino Real de Los Tejas the upper trail, Lower Road, Old San Antonio Road and Laredo Road were and all part of the history of this National Trail

These four trails were a series of pathways which followed the exposed Weches bedrock formation across Texas. These routes met changing conditions, (weather and encounters with native Indians) forcing travel into areas of less disturbance.

The El Camino Real de los Tejas' purpose was to link Mexico City with Los Adaes, which was the provincial capital of Texas (1722-1772). As these trail(s) developed, it had tremendous impact on the people who travel the roads and who lived out their lives near it.

It was truly an agent for cultural diffusion. Traveling along the historic paths, one can trace the history of Texas and northwestern Louisiana and gain a new appreciation for the rich heritage, which is ours.

Schedule

- 10:00 am Welcome by Mike Mitchell,
Chapter Advisor
Texas Parks & Wildlife
- 10:10 am Introduction of Guests
Paul Unger, Chapter President
- 10:15 am Welcoming Remarks
Capt. Robert Goodrich
Texas Parks & Wildlife
- 10:20 am Historical Background
Dr. Dee Dee Green, Milam
County Historical Commission
Kit Worley, landowner
- 11:00 am Graduation Ceremony
- 11:15 am Group Photograph
- 11:30 am Lunch

Directions from the US Texas 36 / US 190
heading west on Hwy 36 from Cameron:

At Pettibone, turn south on FM 486.
Go around 13 miles, through the community
of San Gabriel.

Turn left onto FM 908.

Apache Pass is on your left 3 miles east on
FM 908.

Enjoy More

To learn more, see the state web site at
<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>
or our chapter web site at
<http://grovesite.com/tmn/ecrmm>



Supporters



Little River Basin Master Gardeners



Special Thank You's

Leon & Kay Herzog, Kit & Linda Worley,
Apache Pass, Cameron Chamber of
Commerce, Texas AgriLife Extension
Service's Cameron Team

El Camino Real Chapter



Tuesday, May 13th

10 am – 2 pm

Apache Pass

Milam County, Texas

North 30°41'22.90" West 97°08'13.94"

**Bring your
Lawnchairs**