

El Camino Real Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist

Minutes for membership meeting on: July 8, 2008

Meeting called to order at 10:20am

Officers present:

President Paul Unger

Treasurer Nancy Soechting

Secretary Katherine Bedrich

President Paul Unger began the meeting with a “special” award for Chapter Advisor Michael Mitchell. For all the hard work Mike has put into our Chapter formation he was presented a Fish Ballpoint Pin.

The Treasures Report and Secretary Minutes are available at the Chapter web site.

Paul stated how well the Chapter has been doing. Some of the short terms goals a Chapter needs to accomplish are: elections, Chapter status and functioning committees. Our Chapter has completed these in less time than expected.

Paul thanked Jim and Sandra O’Donnell for their work with the Vice-presidency and Advanced Training. The Board has suggested placing Advanced Training with Vice-president duties. This will need to be a revision to our Chapter Operating Handbook. Katherine Bedrich stated she would like to become Vice-president and vacate Secretary. She stated also both positions were open and if anyone was interested in either. A motion was made by Sandra O’Donnell to elect Katherine; seconded by Paula Engelhardt. Motion carried. Paul stated Cindy Bolch was interested in Secretary. The Board will consider this.

(According to the By-laws the procedure for filling vacancies is for the executive Committee, comprised of the officers and the advisors to vote to fill the position. At the July 1, 2008 Board meeting the decision was made to bring this to the membership)

Katherine highlighted the booth at the Thorndale BBQ. Paul Unger and Paula Engelhardt helped with recruiting prospective members. Interested persons filled out thirteen cards. The booth was a big hit. Possibility for a table at the Rockdale Fair on October 17 & 18 with Game Warden Michael Mitchell was suggested. Anne Barr and Phyllis Shuffied stated they would work at this function. The Leopold Project has four members planning on attending. There are still openings for anyone interested. The trip to the Bamboo Farm was shared. Possibility for a field trip and social was mentioned.

Paul reviewed the upcoming Horned Lizard Training. Specialist training will be August 12th at the Patterson Center in Rockdale. At 2:00pm those interested in becoming specialist will attend the workshop. At 7:00pm a general program will be open for the public. All Chapter members are asked to plan on participating in this training. Vivian

Dixon and Ann Collins will be helping Paul Unger with the event. More information will be posted in the county newspapers and emailed to the members.

Anne Barr, Ann Collins, Vivian Dixon and Sandra O'Donnell are working on the Bird Committee to gather information about birding for the community.

Debbi Harris will have a committee meeting July 16th to begin working on the Milam Co. Nature Book.

Flo Oxley will present a two day program on Plant Identification on October 8th & 9th. The program will be advanced training hours.

Members were asked to share any experiences they have had with the outdoors. Phyllis stated she had a snake on a hummingbird feeder and actually saw it grab a hummingbird. She managed to knock the snake down and carry it away. Ed Burleson has sited a ringtail, fox and owl on his property. Nancy Soething had roadrunners build a hugh nest in a cedar tree and believes they had babies. Ann Collins sister-in-law- has foxes and her cats play with the foxes. Ed Burleson went to the Travis Co. Master Naturalist meeting and shared some stories.

Mike Mitchell encouraged the members to spread the word about the 2009 class. The 2009 class will be on Tuesday nights, 6:00-9:00pm starting in January in Rockdale. Some field trips may be on Saturdays. He also asked the members to consider going to the state convention in October.

After the meeting a program will be given by Ed Burleson on using the Plant Presses the members were given at Graduation.

Motion to adjourn by Nancy Soething; seconded by Debbi Harris.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Minutes submitted by:

Katherine Bedrich

Secretary