

El Camino Real Chapter  
of the  
Texas Master Naturalist

Minutes for board meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:50pm

Officers present:

President Paul Unger

Vice-President Jim O'Donnell

Secretary Katherine Bedrich

Treasurer Nancy Soechting

Guest: Gary Barr

Committee Chairs:

Training – Paula Englehart

Advanced Training – Sandra O'Donnell

Membership – Kerri Cunningham

Communications – Don Travis

Host – Ann Barr

Projects – Connie Roddy

Historian – Tense Tumlinson

Paul presented a motto for the chapter – Look, Learn, Teach, Conserve. The board suggested this be brought to the members meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Paul listed the three areas of importance for a chapter:

1. Five skills – Observation, Experimentation, Documentation, Questioning, Teaching
2. #1 attractant to ECRC is learning
3. Field trips – primary purpose is to build relationships

He mentioned the Galveston Chapter website as a good site for information. All the Chapter website are good for helping us with our Chapter.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife EXPO will be October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a two day event with booths and vendors providing information on many aspects of the TPW. It is free to the public. Katherine will contact the Austin Chapter about ECRC members volunteering at this event.

Sandra O'Donnell asked about communications for the Chapter. How can it flow easily? Should everyone be emailed or telephoned; and how should this be presented on the web site. Don Travis will bring this up with the Communications Committee.

Paul announced a Festival at Apache Pass this weekend. A 10<sup>th</sup> TMN Anniversary T-Shirt contest was announced. Paul will contact Ed Burleson and Mary Waldson about possibly designing a logo for the anniversary. Paul will contact Debbi Harris about the ECRC project on compiling an inventory of the nature of Milam Co.

**Advanced Training:**

Sandra O'Donnell has many suggestions for A.T. She will discuss with her committee about approval. Training approved by the state, or another chapter, will not need approval. A form of approval will need to be filed for Advanced Training in all others situations. Sandra will send notices to members on Approved Training courses. The question was asked: What do we want to offer in Milam Co.? Sandra presented the Advanced Training Survey. In October, Flo Oxley has offered the Little River Basin Master Gardeners / El Camino Real Chapter of TMN a two day course on plants. Debbi

Harris is co-coordinating this for the LRBMG. Sandra will contact Debbi about this training.

**Host Committee:**

A fall B-B-Q- event will be held at Apache Pass. Kit Worley has invited the ECRC to use the facilities for a family event. The date and time has not be set.

**Projects Committee :**

Connie Roddy presented several forms to use for volunteer hours projects. She will work with her committee to create the forms needed for the projects.

**Training Committee:**

Paula Engelhardt and committee will meet with Mike Mitchell next week on gathering information on what he did on forming the 2008 class. The committee decided to not have a fall class; instead to work on having a class in 2009.

**Programs Committee:**

Jim O'Donnell is working on the programs. The July programming will possible be at Ed Burleson's.

**Membership Committee:**

Kerri Cunningham is working with Mike Mitchell and Cindy Bolch on getting the information on the computer.

**Communications Committee:**

A committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 5th. Discussion will be on designing a brochure, starting a newsletter and about the web site. Don suggested buying a display board for the Chapter. He will look into cost. The web site had 1200 hits for the month of May. The importance of the site as a communication vehicle is major. Our web site does not give out personal information. A discussion on using another site for distributing message was tabled.

**History Committee:**

Tense Tumlinson stated articles were collected for ECRC events.

Mike Mitchell mentioned the Texas Parks & Wildlife insurance for the Master Naturalist. He strongly suggested the Chapter incorporate, become a 5013C, and become tax exempt. Nancy and Mike will work on setting this up for the Chapter. Mike asked Anne Barr to print a *Birding List of Cameron* handout to present at the Cameron Community Park ceremony in July. The Leopold Education Project will have a Facilitator Training Workshop on July 14-14 at TCWC.

The 4-H Youth Angler's Fishing program will be June 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at the Gause ISD gym. Members are invited to volunteer.

Secretary Katherine Bedrich reported thank-you notes sent to Mr. & Mrs. Kit Worley; Shirley Williams, FIRM Baptist Center; and Hill Country Chapter TMN. Katherine suggested the Chapter have a booth at the Thorndale BBQ on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The Little River Basin Master Gardeners will share the booth. Expense is \$20.00 total. The Chapter will hand out information, display a photo board, and sign up prospective new members. Motion by Nancy Soechting; seconded by Paula Engelhardt

Next board meeting will be Tuesday July 1<sup>st</sup>; 6:30pm at Paul Unger's.

Motion to adjourn by Katherine Bedrich  
Seconded by: Sandra O'Donnell  
Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Minutes submitted by:  
Katherine Bedrich  
Secretary