

El Camino Real Chapter  
of the  
Texas Master Naturalist

Minutes for general membership meeting on June 10, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:45pm

Officers present:

President Paul Unger

Vice-President Jim O'Donnell

Secretary Katherine Bedrich

Treasurer Nancy Soechting

Committee Chairs:

Training – Paula Englehardt

Advanced Training – Sandra O'Donnell

Communications – Don Travis

Host – Ann Barr

Projects – Connie Roddy

Secretary Katherine Bedrich read minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Approved as read.  
Treasurer Nancy Soechting gave financial report. Approved as read.

Paul introduced guest John Pruett from Pruett Blueberries in Milam Co. Mr. Pruett is with the USDA Agriculture Research. He works with livestock and insect control. He gave a brief description on growing blueberries. The soil pH must be very low for blueberries. Mr. Pruett was very appreciative of our Chapter for inviting him to speak.

Paul presented the motto for the Chapter of **Look, Learn, Teach, Conserve**. The Board had agreed to adopt the motto and bring the final decision to the membership for approval. A motion was made by Don Travis and seconded by Sandra Dworaczyk. Discussion followed. Not all Chapters have a motto. The motion carried.

Anne Barr presented the Birding Resources project. Purpose is to educate the general public in Milam Co. Short-term goals are a Bird List & Bird Card. This will be ready for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July grand opening of Cameron Community Park. Long term goal is a Bird Sanctuary at Wilson-Ledbetter Park. Cindy Bolch explained if photos are used for profit, permission must be given. If the Bird Card is given free to the public, permission will not be necessary. Ann Collins (Brazos Chapter) spoke on a Birding 101 course. Darrell ( ? ) will teach the basics of bird watching to a group at a cost of \$15 each participant.

Katherine Bedrich announced the Booth participation with the LRBMG at the Thorndale BBQ cook off on Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Handouts, brochures and a photo board will be used to promote the Chapter. Also the Bluebird houses and feeders will be for sale. Sign up list was passed around. On July 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Project Leopold will be presented at TCWC. This is a facilitators training course. Cost is \$100.00. Several members are interested. Possibility of volunteering for the Texas Wildlife EXPO on October 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> is being considered. More information when available.

The Milam Co Nature Book is moving forward with approval of the Board. Debbi Harris will develop this and will bring back to the Board a proposal for approval. Debbi stated this resource book is for identifying all species. This will possibly be an on going project for the Chapter. The Chapter may need to purchase a data base program. Anne Barr will work with the computer programming and Debbi will initiate the paper record. Debbi asked for interested members to contact her.

Debbi also presented an Advanced Training opportunity. Flo Oxley from the LBJ Wildflower Center in Austin will give a two-day course on Plant Identification Workshop to the LRBMG on October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. In invitation to the ECRC has been extended.

#### Announcements:

Mike Mitchell thanked Jim & Sandra O'Donnell for opening their home to the ECRC for the meeting, and to Susan Humble for her demonstration of the Rainwater simulator.

Anne Barr passed out video CD's of graduation to all members.

Mike Mitchell presented Paul Unger with a TMN pin for achieving the level of 80 volunteer hrs. and 16 training hrs. this year.

This Friday, Cindy Bolch will be managing the volunteer hours on the computer.

June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> the 4-H Youth Angler's Fishing education program will be in the Gause Gym and Wayne Fisher's pond. Game Warden Mike Mitchell is conducting this program. Volunteers are welcome.

Mike & Nancy are working on the possibility of incorporating the Chapter as a non-profit.

Mike mention a new certificate will be presented to Lucile Estell; her name was misspelled on the original.

Ed Burleson is working on the 10<sup>th</sup> TMN State anniversary T-Shirt contest. He has a couple of designs he will send. The deadline is June 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone can submit a design.

#### Committee Chair reports:

Sandra O'Donnell and Connie Roddy are working on forms for their respective committees. Advanced Training approved by the State or other Chapter will not need a form approval.

Don Travis has purchased a 3' x 6' display board. Cost was \$280.00. The Communications Committee met on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Don had an example of a newsletter format. He asked the members to be thinking of a name for the newsletter. Naming the Newsletter contest will be announced. Anne Barr is working on a Chapter brochure. She had a sample of what it could look like.

Host committee Chair Anne Barr thanked everyone for bringing food to the meeting.

Jim O'Donnell announced the program for the July meeting will be on Flower Pressing with Ed Burleson. It will be at 10:00am in Rockdale at the General Store.

Paula Engelhardt announced the Training Committee will not pursue a fall MN class.

She asked if anyone had any input to call her. The Committee will meet Thursday with Mike at 12:00pm.

New Business:

Ann Collins (Brazos Chapter TMN) said the LRBMG sent the Board minutes to all members after each meeting. This was considered a good suggestion. She also asked how she could become a member of the ECRC. Paul will find out the procedure for member transferring.

Paul stated he had talked to Mary Waldson, one of the Chapters mentors. She said she will not to transferring to the ECRC, but she would like to be on our mailing list. Mary will be a “Friend of the Master Naturalist”.

Motion to adjourn by Sandra Dworaczyk; seconded by Paula Engelhardt.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Minutes submitted by:

Katherine Bedrich

Secretary