

**Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Chapter Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2016**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Lucy Coward at 5:31. It was held at the home of members Joyce and Mike Conner. Members present included Nancy Adcock, Darlene Anglen, Scott Berger, Linda Conn, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Ann Collins, Lucy Coward, Cindy Bolch, Don Hagan, Lynn Hagan, Pat Holley, Donna Lewis, Dorothy Mayer, Billy Moore, Phyllis Shuffield, Kim Summers, and Nancy Webber.

Order of the Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Bolch

The Treasurer's Report is online and was filed for audit.

Secretary's Minutes

The minutes are on-line and available for viewing..

Membership Report: Cindy Bolch

Awards: Cindy Bolch

Certification:

Scott Berger

Old Business:

Lucy read the invitation to the marker dedication ceremony of the Wilson Ledbetter Park on September 17, at 10am. All members are welcome to attend.

State meeting, October 21-23 in Conroe.

October monthly meeting Buc Burchette, game warden for Milam county. Question/answer session, including new hunting laws. Marlowe Baptist Church

November monthly meeting—tentative—open discussion

December—Christmas party TBD

Scholarship from Texas Parks and Wildlife for \$75 to State Convention was awarded to Donna Lewis. The chapter matched the TPW funds awarded for Donna.

New Business

Nancy Adcock presented the information on the January 28 field trip to Houston. The information on the trip follows.

Think about—doing programs at new daycare in Cameron

Think about speakers for 2017

January—Floyd Ingram

February—surprise

March—filled

April--filled

May through August—suggestions needed

Bio Blitz—Linda Jo Conn

Texas Parks and Wildlife Record observations focusing on pollinators and nectar-bearing plants. October 7 - 14 Share observations by posting to Instagram or iNaturalist. Can be done in groups or individually. For more information, contact Linda Jo.

Dorothy —Sue Taylor lost her dad recently. The chapter will send a card.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Kim Summers and seconded by Pat Holley. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Adcock

**El Camino Real Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist**

Presents

Winter Field Trip 2017

When: January 28, 2017
Departs 7am from location TBD
Returns 7pm to above location

To: Houston Museum of Natural Science

Founded in 1909, the purpose of the Houston Museum of Natural Science has always been to "enhance in individuals the knowledge and delight in natural science and related subjects."

To this very day, this purpose is carried out in every project, program and exhibition associated with the museum.

As one of the most heavily attended museums in the United States, and one of the most attended venues in Houston, the Museum houses the Burke Baker Planetarium, Wortham GIANT Screen Theatre (IMAX), Cockrell Butterfly Center and a fascinating variety of **permanent exhibit areas** that examine astronomy, space science, Native American culture, paleontology, energy, chemistry, gems and minerals, seashells, Texas wildlife and much more. In addition, the museum frequently presents traveling exhibitions on a variety of topics. The Museum is a major science learning center with over a half million school children visiting annually, including every fourth grade and seventh grade class in the Houston Independent School District.

Travel arrangements: We will travel aboard a 31 seat mini-bus, equipped with WIFI, DVD, overhead monitors, individual ac/heating, lighting, seatbelts, PA system/microphone, semi-reaching seats, and overhead storage.

Houston Museum of Natural Science

There are many things to do while at the museum! You are free to plan your own itinerary. Consider this an "a la carte" menu. You decide what you want!

General Admission **\$8 all-day ticket**

This includes the permanent exhibit areas listed above. All-day ticket. Come and go as you please.

Allow 2-3 hours (estimate)

Burke Baker Planetarium **\$6 per film**

Opened in 1964, the Burke Baker Planetarium has presented astronomical programs to millions of visitors from school groups to the general public. The newly upgraded planetarium now features Digistar 5, the world's leading digital planetarium software and projection system. The Digistar 5 system enables our visitors to fly through the universe, experience the vastness of space, roam planetary surfaces, navigate asteroid fields, and watch the latest fulldome shows. Along with our ability to create unique experiences for the planetarium, we have access to a global cloud library of content and shows we can present. The Digistar Cloud library allows us to keep presentations filled with the latest discoveries. You'll discover something new every time you visit!

The schedule for the planetarium will not be released until December. Films are 25 minutes long. Every 30 minutes, on the hour and half-hour, a different film is shown in the planetarium. The films rotate throughout the day. You may attend as many as you would like. There could be as many as 5 different films to choose.

Wortham Giant Screen Theatre (IMAX) \$8 per viewing

The 394-seat giant screen theatre features the latest in state-of-the-art motion picture projection. Houston's first IMAX theatre recently upgraded from IMAX 70mm film projection to stunning 4K digital with advanced 3D technology. Images of unsurpassed size, clarity and impact, enhanced by a superb six-track sound system, are projected onto a giant 60' x 80' foot screen.

Since September 1989, more than 14 million students, families, seniors and museum members have enjoyed the Wortham Giant Screen Experience.

The schedule for the IMAX will not be released until December. Showings are 45 minutes long, There will be about 4 different showings, each beginning on the hour starting at 9am. We will arrive in time for the 10am showing.

Cockrell Butterfly Center \$6 all-day ticket

The Cockrell Butterfly Center and Brown Hall of Entomology provide entertainment and education for the whole family. Walk through a living butterfly habitat, marvel at spectacular live and preserved specimens of some of the world's largest and weirdest arthropods, and enjoy interactive games and quizzes.

This ticket is for the entire day. You may enter, leave, and then re-enter as many times as you like. For more detailed information on the Center, go to www.hmns.org.

Allow 1 hour (estimate)

Traveling Exhibits—January 28, 2017

****Amber Secrets: Feathers from the Age of Dinosaurs \$13 (includes general admission)**

Prized amber gems began their journey through deep time in liquid form— as resin secreted by trees, likely in response to injury. This liquid "Band-Aid" served as a natural sticky trap for capturing a portion of the ecosystem that could not be preserved in such detail in any other manner.

Except in the rarest cases, the fossilization process is not a gentle one—it favors the largest and most durable. Delicate or small things are "forgotten" by the process. The copious ancient resin that trapped and drowned fragments of these ancient landscapes served as the most faithful and gentle of funeral directors. Details normally not preserved in fossils are plainly visible.

Amber Secrets, Feathers from the Age of Dinosaurs features over 100 of some of the most exquisite specimens dating as far back as 99 million years ago. Plants, fungus, vertebrates and invertebrates such as insects, spiders, scorpions, snails, millipedes and centipedes are represented. Each polished translucent gem provides a window to the time of the dinosaurs.

Allow 30 minutes (estimate)

****Mummies of the World \$17 (includes general admission)**

Come face to face with the largest exhibition of real mummies and related artifacts

ever assembled. The exhibit provides a window into the lives of ancient people from every region of the world including Europe, South America and Ancient Egypt, offering unprecedented insights into past cultures and civilizations.

Inside every mummy is a story waiting to be told. Through modern science and technology, their secrets are now revealed. *Mummies of the World* tells the story of the mummies and mummification through state-of-the-art multimedia, hands-on interactive stations and cutting-edge 3-D animation taking visitors on a 4,500-year journey to explore the mummies' history and origins as well as how they were created, both through natural and intentional practices.

Mummies of the World highlights real advances in the scientific methods used to study mummies, including Computed Tomography (CT), ancient DNA analysis and radiocarbon dating, all of which allow researchers to learn about the lives, history, and cultures of the mummies. Who were they? Where did they come from? And what can they teach us? Peek into the lives of ancient people and cultures from every region of the world to learn about past civilizations. What secrets do mummies hold about the past? What clues do they bring us for the future? A journey awaits as we unravel their mysteries in *Mummies of the World*.

Allow 60 - 90 minutes. This is considered a "block-buster" exhibit and your ticket will have a time to enter printed on it. The museum does not expect big crowds on January 28, so times will be flexible.

Dining

The Museum offers easy access to a quick meal at McDonald's in the Grand Entry Hall. The Museum District offers several dining options within walking distance. Please note: Food and beverages are not allowed inside the Museum exhibit halls or theaters.

The Museum also suggested 2 restaurants in the area within walking distance:

Bodega's—about 1 block away and Barnaby's about 4 -5 blocks away.

Bodegastacoshop.com

Barnabyscafe.com

Any questions? You can contact me at 337.288-7119 or quiltlady346@gmail.com.

Nancy Adcock

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Houston Field Trip

_____YES! I would like to join the El Camino Real Chapter on the field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science on January 28, 2017. I understand my deposit of \$46 is non-refundable. (This is applied to your portion of the bus transportation.) I understand I will choose my activities at a later date and will be responsible for the cost of these activities and my lunch. **NOTE—This field trip is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited to 30.

Name: _____

