

**Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter Meeting
Milano United Methodist Church
November 9, 2017**

Prior to the meeting:

Don showed the members the video on Katherine Bedrich that was presented at the state conference.

Members' Presentations on the State Conference

Phyllis announced that the 2018 pin will be an ocelot. A movie presentation on the ocelot was shown and information on the ocelots was available. Phyllis also attended a class and learned about arundo grass. It is an invasive plant and how to control it will be an upcoming topic for our chapter.

Linda Jo Conn—2018 conference is in Georgetown. It was great to see people she has met at previous conferences. Linda Jo attended an iNaturalist class. TPW is using iNaturalist for recording information. She went to Basic Birding, Tree ID Techniques, a taxonomy class, a biology class, Wild Cats in Texas, and Wildlife Ethics. Linda Jo attended the meeting for the state representatives. She also attended a journaling class in memory of Katherine.

Scott Berger—Scott also attended some of the same classes Linda Jo attended. He especially liked learning about different wind speeds around the world. Scott gave his thanks to Mary Pearl for registration. He reported there were many classes to choose from and had a good time

The meeting was called to order by Phyllis Shuffield at 6:55pm. Members in attendance included Nancy Adcock, Scott Berger, Linda Jo Conn, Sandra Dworaczyk, Edward Dworaczyk, Debbi Harris, Pat Holley, Janice Johnson, Donna Lewis, Dorothy Mayer, Billy Moore, Pamela Neeley, Darlene Reynolds, Phyllis Shuffield, Kim Summers, Sheri Sweet, Wes Sweet, Cindy Travis, Don Travis, and Nancy Webber. Guests: Charlie Bedrich, Cindy McDaniels, Gary McDaniels, and Tommy Reynolds.

Secretary's Report: Nancy Adcock

Update from conference: minutes must be read at the meeting. Nancy read the minutes orally. Janice Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Billy Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed and the minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Cromwell

In Barb's absence, the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

FYI

Amazon Smile—Members can set up their Smile account on Amazon and our MN chapter will receive a portion of the purchase.

Nature Stories:

Several members reported an abundance of butterflies on their property. Pamela had two rattlesnakes on her land. Nancy Webber found a rat snake in her wood box. "Young" Sheri saw a baby ocelot in South Texas.

Board Chairs:

Communications: Don Travis

Don is still looking for someone to take over the chapter newsletter. If anyone has trouble reading the weekly notification, please let Don know.

Host: Sherry Colley

Absent

Membership: Debbi Harris

If there are any changes to the roster needing to occur, please let Debbi know ASAP.

All data entry must be in by Decemeber 31, 2017. The state wants accurate reports within the last week of the year. A help session was held this week and another session will be Monday, November 27 at the Cameron library.

Sign on and edit your profile in VMS. More information will follow from Debbi.

Members' Hours Information:

Year -to-date: 388 hours of advanced training and 2,728 hours of volunteer time.

Month of October: 41 hours of advanced training and 149 hours of volunteer time

Since chapter inception: 36,241 hours of volunteer time and 5,023 hours of advanced training

Membership dues are \$20/yr and can be paid anytime now.

November awards: Don Travis—4,000 hours

Donna Lewis—5,000 hours

Advanced Training and Volunteer: Kathy Lester

Absent

Old Business:

Plant ID--Plant specimens—November 16, 10am at church

New Business:

****Report from Presidents' Breakfast**

Endowment fund

20th anniversary: slogan and t-shirt contests TBA

Stressed hours in by December 31 so that reports can be pulled

As part of outreach to the community—Get representative to speak to the community about bill on wildlife conversation (Recovering America's Wildlife of 2016)

****Former members coming back: Gary and Cindy McDaniels, Lucy Coward Welcome!**

****Report on New Class**

Dorothy requested that members talk to others in their community about the class. Good speakers are lined up

****2018 Slate of Officers**

President: Phyllis Shuffield

Vice President: Donna Lewis

Secretary: Nancy Adcock

Treasurer: Debbi Harris

Board Chairs

Advanced Training and Volunteer: Kathy Lester

Communications: Don Travis

Membership: Debbi Harris

Host: Sherry Colley

****Possible change in format of chapter meeting**

Board discussed changing format of the meeting due to request from member/members.

A motion was made by Don Travis that for the foreseeable future at 5:30 a potluck meal will be served, AT will be held from 6- 7 and the regular chapter meeting will follow. This was seconded by Debbi Harris. The motion passed

A motion to adjourn was made by Sandra Dworaczyk and seconded by Billy Moore to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Adcock

Volunteer time: 1 hour, 15 minutes

Advanced training: 45 minutes

Hospitality: 1 hour