

**Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Chapter Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2015**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Cromwell at 6:55pm, and was held at the Milano United Methodist church. Those in attendance included: Clyde Adcock, Nancy Adcock, Katherine Bedrich, Cindy Bolch, Sherry Colley, Linda Jo Conn, Lucy Coward, Barbara Cromwell, Rich Cromwell, Sandra Dworaczyk, Pat Holley, Janice Johnson, Dorothy Mayer, Phyllis Shuffield, Kim Summers, Sheri Sweet, and Wesley Sweet.

Treasurer—Cindy Bolch

Cindy reported a beginning balance for October of \$3,728.98 and an ending balance of \$3,758.93. A complete treasurer's report is on the website and has been filed for audit. The books must be audited before the end of the year. Serving on this committee are Barbara Cromwell, Nancy Adcock, and Clyde Adcock. They will meet with Cindy on December 3 at 3:30pm at the Rockdale Library.

Chair reports

Membership—Cindy Bolch/Dorothy Mayer

Members are encouraged to sign up with VMS. Currently about 10 of our 40 members have done so and are using the system. Members must certify at least once every two years. Kim Summers was awarded her 2015 recertification pin.

A.T./V.T.—Kathy Lester Absent, no report

Historian—Debbi Harris Absent, no report

Communications—Don Travis

On behalf of Dan, Dorothy reported books are still available from 2013 and 2014. Please turn in articles for the upcoming newsletter.

Based on the 2015 member survey, an interest was shown in astronomy. Nancy Adcock gave a brief presentation on a possible field trip to the Burke Baker Planetarium in Houston in the spring. Details will be forthcoming.

Barb and Nancy worked toward revising the Chapter Operating Handbook to follow the new standards as set forth by the state organization. Discussion followed. Under directors, all "new class representative" Katherine Bedrich made a motion to add the New Class Representative under Directors. Sandra Dworaczyk seconded the motion. The motion passed. This will be added, the COH published, and the vote will occur in January.

Projects/Announcements

Nature of Milam County—Katherine Bedrich

Friday, November 20, the soil group will meet at Janice Johnson's. They will work on and discuss the soil tunnel. Lolly Lewis will be scheduling advanced training in this area for 2016. The mammal group will meet in early December. The Great Texas Wildlife Trails (maps) cover nine areas of Texas were discussed. They could be given as gifts for speakers and for purchase by members. The board will decide how to use the maps for gifts. Phyllis Sheffield made a motion for Katherine Bedrich to order five boxes of these maps in sets of nine. This was seconded by Linda Jo Conn. There was a friendly amendment to charge \$5 for individual purchase. Linda Jo also seconded this friendly amendment. Motion passed.

Floridus Milamexa—Linda Jo Conn

Linda Jo reported the group has not been on the trails recently, but plans to start again soon. They are continuing the taxonomy class at the Herbarium in college Station with Dale Kruse.

Everyone must register with 4H starting September 1. Go to Texas.4Honline.com to re-enroll. If help is needed, please contact Cindy Bolch or Marci at the Extension Office.

Dorothy Mayer gave an update on the new class. Both information and class schedule is ready. Dorothy is mailing information to prospective members. She is working on news getting the information in the local newspapers. Manuals (hard bound books) will be used until they go online in the late spring.

Thanks go to Linda Jo Conn for informing teachers about the form to enable them to possibly attend the training classes for their Continuing Education hours.

Mentoring Program for new class—Five mentors have been recruited to date. If interested in becoming a mentor for a member of the training class, please contact Cindy Bolch. Volunteer hours are earned for mentors; advanced training hours are earned for those just attending class but not mentoring.

The annual Christmas party will be held at the home of Sandra and Edward Dworaczyk on December 10 at 6pm. Members may bring their spouse or a friend. The meat is provided; please bring a side dish. Also, bring a "white elephant" gift for exchange and canned goods for the food pantry.

Election of new officers—The slate of officers for 2016 provided by Katherine Bedrich, Don Travis, and Dorothy Mayer is: President: Lucy Coward, Vice-President: Sandra Dworaczyk, Secretary: Nancy Adcock, and Treasurer: Cindy Bolch. Having no further nominations, Sandra Dworaczyk made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. This was seconded by Kim Summers. The motion passed and the slate of officers was accepted. Katherine extended her congratulations to the new officers.

Activities/Upcoming Events

Friday, November 13—Get Wacked for Wildlife

Saturday, November 14—Project Feeder Watch begins. <http://feederwatch.org>

Friday, November 20—Nature of Milam County, soil group. 6pm at Janice Johnson's. Contact Katherine Bedrich

Tuesday, November 24—Nature of Milam County, journaling. 9am at home of Ann Collins. Read "November" chapter and "Wildlife in American Culture" chapter of **Sand County Almanac**. Contact Linda Jo Conn

Friday, November 27—National Day of Listening, Mother Neff State Park

Additional activities may be found at the Mother Neff Association website.

Dorothy Mayer presented out-going President Barb Cromwell with a gift in thanks and appreciation of her hard work and job well done!

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Kim Summers and seconded by Rich Cromwell. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Adcock