Texas Master Naturalist

El Camino Real Chapter

Board Meeting

November 7, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Katherine Bedrich at 6:15 pm.

The meeting was held at the home of Katherine Bedrich.  Those in attendance were:  Katherine Bedrich, Don Travis, Ann Collins, Cindy Bolch, Phyllis Shuffield, Dorothy Mayer, Pat Holley, Debbi Harris, and Kathy Lester.

Secretary:  Ann Collins

Don Travis made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting.  The motion was seconded by Pat Holley and the vote carried.

Vice President:  Donna Lewis - absent  No Report.

Treasurer:  Cindy Bolch

General Report is attached.  Cindy Travis, Dorothy Mayer, and Cindy Bolch will serve on the committee to audit the treasurer's books.

ITEMS:

1.  Katherine gave a report of the Presidents Meeting at the state conference.

     A.  Grants through the Horned Lizard License Plate Conservation project will be available for chapter projects.  Debbi suggested that we might apply for a grant for a project in Gause, as there is much local interest.

     B.  Social Media was a topic of interest; webinars, etc.  Debbi volunteered to set up a face book page for the chapter.  Don questioned :  Who do we want to reach and the best vehicle to use.  The discussion was tabled until after the first of the year.

     C.  The new hour pin for 2014 was displayed and it is a nine banded armadillo.  There is a new category for hours which is the 4,000 hour pin which is a dragonfly with a ruby.  This pin is accompanied by a letter from the President of the United States.  The 5,000 hour pin is still in place.  Five people have already qualified for the new 10,000 hour pin.

 D. TPWD and the Texas Land & Water Plan are encouraging the TMN Program to Train 800 new members for the upcoming year.

    E.  Katherine has been in contact with the Central Texas Chapter of Temple, the Heart of Texas Chapter of Waco, and the Gideon Lincicum Chapter of Brenham to plan workshops for these chapters.  The workshops would be for one day and would be planned for 2014.

     F.  It was noted that Dale Kruse contributed $375.00 to combine with ECRMN's $125.00 so that we could be Gold Sponsors for the state conference.  A thank you note has been received from Michelle Haggarty.

2.  Cindy Bolch was authorized to order ten copies of the DVD "Where Did the Horney Toads Go?"  One copy will be contributed to the annual Cameron Lions Club auction, one will be on file for use of the chapter.  The other copies may be purchased by those who are interested for $25.00.

3.  At the November General meeting Flo Oxley and Dale Kruse will be voted on to become Honorary Members of El Camino Real. The honorary members may earn hours and become certified annually as members of ECRTMN.

4.  Partners:  Ann questioned who qualifies as a partner and a reading from the By Laws was made by Phyllis.  The current partners will remain the same contingent on a letter sent to Bat Conservation International.

5.  Election of officers for 2014 will be held at the Monthly meeting in November to be presided over by Sandra Dworaczyk.  The new officers will partner with the current officers until after the first of the year 2014.  There will be no official meeting in the month of December.

6.  The December meeting will be a Christmas Social.  Written invitations will be sent to the partners:  Lucile Estell as a representative of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail;  Clint and Janice Walker, Peggy and Collier Perry, and Dale Kruse, S. M. Tracy Herbarium, curator.  The two new Honorary Members will also be sent invitations as well as the Chapter sponsors – Jon Gersbach, AgriLife Extension; and Timothy Siegmund, TPWD.  There will be a green frog, AKA white elephant, gift exchange.  The social will be held at the home of Barb and Rich Cromwell at 5:00pm on December 12, 2013.

7.  Projects:  Desiccant packs need to be saved for the new Chapter Project, *Floridius Milamexa,*

     Dale Kruse has offered for "lease"  two filing. The cabinets are 7'X29"X19".  With sixteen bins each 900 to 1,000 specimens can be stored.  Discussion followed as to where the cabinets may be stored.

     Debbi reported that the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas project is now complete.  In the future it will be referred to as the Milano Junction Memorial Garden.  Future projects include a poured concrete sidewalk, more gardens and trees will be planted, and memorial bricks will be laid.  Alcoa donated flowering dogwood trees that have been planted and M&M Farm Supply donated and sold at a discount oak trees.  There will be no change to the funds already allocated to the project as some plants will require replacement next year.  Thank you notes need to be sent to Rockdale Memorial Company for the stone they donated and to M&M Farm Supply for the oak trees they donated.

8.  The Central Texas Chapter has requested our help with their nature festival for Tracking Molds and Face Painting.  Future discussions will be held.

Board Chairs:  2012-2013

Advanced Training and Volunteer:  Phyllis Shuffield

State of Water with Cappy Smith and Linda McCall will be held on November 19, 2013 at the Kountry Inn in Rockdale.  The program will be from 5:00 to 7:00pm.  Set up will be at 4:00pm.

Membership:  Debbi Harris

New form for reporting hours is attached.

Communications:  Don Travis

Don's questions are:  How effective are we?  What do we want to accomplish?  Who do we want to reach?

Don will plan to walk the new class through the use of the web page.

Newspaper articles and other current vehicles of communicating were discussed.

There will be a future meeting to discuss strategies.

Historical:  Barb Cromwell - absent

No Report

Host:  Cindy McDaniels - absent

No Report

Training Class:  Dorothy Mayer

Dorothy reported that the class was going well with eight members.  There will be a field trip to the Herbarium on November 8, 2013.  Jane Packard has been confirmed to come to Milano for the class.

Katherine passed out copies of the Bylaws, the Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct, and the Operating Handbook to be included in each of the folders assembled by the committee chairs and officers.

Debbi made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Cindy Bolch.  Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.