Texas Master Naturalist

El Camino Real Chapter

Board Meeting

September 26, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President, Katherine Bedrich at 7:25 pm.

The meeting was held at the home of Barb and Rich Cromwell.  Those in attendance were:  Dorothy Mayer, Sandra Dworaczyk, Sherry Colley, Cindy Mc Daniels, Phyllis Shuffield, Rich Cromwell, Barb Cromwell, Gary Mc Daniels, Ann Collins, Donna Lewis, Debbi Harris, Kathy Lester, John Pruett, Katherine Bedrich, and Linda Jo Conn.

**Items:**  **Report from Nominating Committee by Cindy Bolch:**

     President:  Barb Cromwell

     Vice President:  Sandra Dworaczyk

     Secretary:  Ann Collins

     Treasurer:  Cindy Bolch

     The election of officers will be held at the Annual meeting on November 14, 2013 for the year 2014.  The meeting will be held at the home of Pat Holley.

     **Committee Chairs for 2014 are as follows:**

     Advanced Training & Volunteer:  Kathy Lester

     Membership:  TBD

     Communications:  Don Travis

     Historian:  Debbi Harris

     Host:  Sherry Colley

     Training Class:  Dorothy Mayer

     **Training Class for the Fall of 2013 - Dorothy Mayer**

     There are less than ten prospects for the class beginning October 4, 2013.  Dorothy suggested that we might allow some of those who are undecided to audit the class for the month of October.  Katherine Bedrich voiced her opinion that this was not a good idea and the item was tabled.  Sandra Dworaczyk volunteered to contact prospective members and see if she could get a commitment from them.

     Dorothy suggested that the Host committee furnish drinks, plates, napkins, etc and one person be in charge of the meal for each session.  No sign up sheet was passed.

     It was noted that if this class does not happen that the next one would be for the

year 2016, as we offer a class every other year, alternating with the Little River Basin Master Gardeners.  The present class would extend from October 4, 2013 to February 7, 2014.

**Nature Festival 2014 - Barb Cromwell**

     The committee met prior to the Board Meeting.  The theme for the festival will be:  Conservation of Natural Habitat.

     Phyllis Shuffield suggested that we might be able to get Bill Oliver, a musician and festival planner to perform at the festival.  He puts the concept of Habitat Preservation to music.

     The next meeting will be November 7, 2013 before the regular monthly meeting which will be held at Katherine Bedrich's.

**Texas Native Plant Week  - October 20 -26, 2013**

     Debbi Harris and Sandra Dworaczyk will plan a dedication ceremony for the Monarch Way Station at the Milano Memorial Garden on Wednesday, October 23, 2013.  At that time the garden will receive Certification as an official habitat for migrating monarch butterflies.  Alcoa will be donating dogwood trees to be planted in the garden.

     Linda Jo Conn will write an article for the local newspapers to publicize the event.  Debbi Harris will provide a photograph of the garden to accompany the article.

**In active Committees:  Birds, Bats, Big Tree, Adopt-A-Highway**

It was decided to keep the bird Committee active.  Members will still be able to report birding activities such as Hummingbird Round-Up,  Any Audubon activities, any Cornell activities on their own.  Ann Collins will notify the membership of any other activities that come up.  Reports for the Milam County Resource book, The Nature of Milam County  will be ongoing and need to be co-coordinated with Ann.

     The Bat Committee was disbanded.  Cindy Bolch is still active with BCI and goes to Austin to help them with projects.

     Don Travis will be restarting the Big Tree Committee when he gets back to Texas.  See attached note from Don.

     Adopt-A-Highway has been canceled as of May of this year when our "contract" expired.  If there is any interest in reinstating it the chair person would have to start from the beginning with paperwork with the Highway Department.  Moving the sign would costs the Highway Department approximately $1,000.00 so they are not too keen on a new location.  Someone must step up to the plate and own this committee if there is any interest.

     Sandra D suggested that new members might be overwhelmed with all of the choices they have and might feel they need to participate at all levels.  This needs to be made clear to any who might have this misconception.

**State Meeting Sponsorship:**

A motion was made by Phyllis Shuffield and seconded by Donna Lewis that the chapter contribute $125.00, an amount matched by Partner Dale Kruse for a total of $250.00 which would place us at the silver level.  The vote was passed.  See note from Don Travis.

**Guidelines Committee:  Debbi Harris**

      Debbi had put before the board items that were not addressed by the last committee.  There is no committee at this time.  It was decided not to address the items but to table any discussion until the new President decides to do so.  See note from Don Travis.

**Honorary Membership in Chapter:**

Flo Oxley has indicated that she would like to be a member of our chapter.  She would not be available to attend all classes and, in fact would be presenting some of them.  Honorary members would be able to accrue volunteer and advanced training hours just as any other member according to Cindy Bolch who addressed the issue to Michelle Haggarty.

     It was suggested that we also include Dale Kruse as an Honorary Member.  Honorary members are those who make or have made a significant contribution to the chapter.  Both Flo and Dale most definitely fall into this category.

     John Pruett said he would not want to be considered any different from any other new member just because of his knowledge, education, or experience.

     Debbi will contact Flo and see exactly to what extent she wants to participate.

     Honorary members are voted on at the annual meeting which will be held in November of this year.

     See attached note from Don Travis as to how our By-Laws address this issue.

**Central Texas Chapter Nature Festival, October 18, 2014**

     They have invited the El Camino Chapter to have a booth and use the tracking molds to educate the children from their area.  No vote was taken.  If we decide not to participate they would like to borrow our molds.  Again, no vote was taken.

**Where Did the Horny Toads Go?**

     Members of the chapter attended the screening of this DVD sponsored by the chapter from Temple.  Katherine suggested that we purchase a DVD of our own for a cost of $20.00 plus a $5.00 shipping charge.  We would not be able to use this for the public because of co pyrite  complications.

     Dorothy asked if she could order one also with the chapter's order.  It was agreed that she could.

**Future Meetings:**

October 10, 2013 Monthly meeting at Michelle Fletcher's.  Lucille Estel and Joy Graham will be presenting a program on the El Camino Trail.  Michelle suggested Tex-Mex dishes for the meal.

     November 7, 2013  Board Meeting at Katherine Bedrich's.  There will be a Nature Festival meeting at 5:00pm and the board will meet at 6:00pm.

     November 14, 2013 Monthly meeting at Pat Holley's.

A motion to adjourn was made by Phyllis Shuffield and was seconded by Donna Lewis.  Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann Collins, Secretary

El Camino Real Master Naturalist