Texas Master Naturalist

El Camino Real Chapter

Chapter Meeting Sept. 11, 2014

United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall; Milano.

Call to Order: 11:20am, by Vice President Sandra Dworaczyk

 Attendance: Sandra Dworaczyk, Sherry Colley, Debbi Harris, Kim Summers, Katherine Bedrich, Dorothy Mayer, Donna Lewis, Ann Collins, Lucy Coward, Rich Cromwell, Darlene Anglen, Cindy Bolch

Treasurer: Cindy Bolch - Report for August: General funds: $2728.20; Nature Festival: $1917.58; Bird Fund: $150.00; Milano Junction Memorial Garden: $286.37; Education: $36.22

Chair Reports

 Membership – Dorothy Mayer; Richard Johnson worked on the chapter computer. Dorothy was having problems with sending out member information from the data base. A motion was made by Debbi Harris to give Richard a “friendship dragonfly” pin. Seconded by Cindy Bolch. After discussion the motion passed. The volunteer project report has been updated. Update to the membership list is progress.

Volunteer hour’s pins were handed out:

2014 Armadillo re-cert pins were presented to: Sherry Colley and Ann Collins

2500 dragonfly milestone pins were presented to: Donna Lewis and Ann Collins

Get well cards were signed for Jeanette Patschke and Debby Rolan. A sympathy card will be sent to Donald and Phyllis Shuffield. Donald’s mother passed this week.

 Historian - Debbi Harris; continue sending an information on chapter activity for scrapbook.

 Communications – Don Travis; Don was not at the meeting, announcement to turn in newsletter articles by September 15th)

Projects / Announcements

 Nature of Milam County- Katherine Bedrich; Meeting on October 2nd to plan for next years reading of Sand County Almanac. The meeting will be at 9:00am at John Pruett’s

 Floridus Milamexa – John Pruett; Katherine gave report of yesterday’s field trip. Next field trip – September 23rd. Meet at the bridge on San Gabriel River on CR429.

 Bird Tales – Cindy Bolch; Cindy reported six members are on the team, anyone interested in joining, email Cindy. The project will involve the nursing home residents in sharing their interest in birds. Visits will be monthly to Winne L. and Cameron Nursing homes. Time: 9:30-10:00am.

 Milano Junction Memorial Garden – Debbi Harris; the chapter is invited to a Little River Basin Master Gardener presentation next Wednesday at the MJMG. A Milano teacher is interested in starting a butterfly garden at the school. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss this possible project.

Old Business:

 Nature Festival – should we have one in 2015. Sandra led a discussion on having a Nature Festival in 2015. Most members suggested not having a 2015 NF. No member has come forward to be the chair. Some suggestions: take a break for a few years; have a NF every other year; check into helping other Chapters with projects and invite them to our projects; have a fund raising project. The Nature Festival Project discussion was deferred to the board for further discussion.

New Business:

 Ann Collins announced that Jim Waldson from the Brazos Valley MN gave the Chapter the Bird matching box. A thank-you note will be sent to Jim.

 Katherine asked for volunteers to help at the October 4th Fair in Bryan. Contact Katherine if you can help.

 The Central Texas Chapter MN is having their First Nature Fest on Saturday October 18th. Our Chapter has several booths; Cindy B. – bats, Lucy – Horned lizard; and Katherine- Passenger Pigeon. Volunteers are needed for these booths and other activities. Contact Barb Cromwell if you can help.

 A Milam County Bird survey will start in October. Contact Ann Collins for information.

 Cindy B.-announced the Brazos Valley Chapter MN has invited local residents to participate in their fall training class.

.Activities/ Upcoming dates:

Tuesday, September 16th - – Milano Butterfly Garden Workday;  8:00 – 10:00am.  Bring garden tools to help spread mulch and do some general cleaning.  Contact: Debbi Harris (V.E.)

Wednesday, September 17th –Milano  Butterfly Garden’s Success; 9:30am at the Milano Junction Memorial Garden.  This program is presented by Little River Basin Master Gardener Association.  The program will be followed by the LRBMGA monthly meeting.  Contact: Debbi Harris.  (A.T.)

Thursday, September 18th – Bird Tales;  9:30am at Winnie L. Nursing Facility.  Contact: Cindy Bolch, cindy@farm-market.net. (V.E.)

Saturday, September 20th - A Day at Cedar Hill Ranch --Come and meet our Brazos Valley Chapter trainees --Visit with other Texas Master Naturalists and Audubon members and their families!  (Refer to “Special Invitation” emailed separately)   PLEASE RSVP: joyce@conner.net.

October:

Thursday,  October 2nd – Nature of Milam County Project; Planning for next year’s reading of Sand County Almanac, nature observation and journaling.  TBA.  Contact: Katherine, kamber1951@gmail.com (V.E.)

Saturday, October 4th – Boonville Days Heritage Fair, 10:00am – 5:00pm at Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History.  <http://www.brazosvalleymuseum.org/events-and-news/news/boonville-days-heritage-fair-2014>.   Our Chapter will have a “Fold the Flock” table to remember the plight of the Passenger Pigeon.  Anyone interested in volunteering contact Katherine: kamber1951@gmail.com

Thursday, October 9th  – Bird Tales;  9:30am at Cameron Nursing Center.  Contact: Cindy Bolch, cindy@farm-market.net. (V.E.)

Thursday,  October 9th – Chapter Meeting; TBA.  Contact: Sandra Dworaczyk.

Motion to adjourn: Lucy Coward motioned to adjourn; seconded by Kim Summers. Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm

Minutes submitted by: Katherine Bedrich

(The Butterfly Program proceeded the meeting. Before the Program, a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of September 11, 2001)

**Program on Butterflies** by Donna Lewis, TMN; and Passenger Pigeon folding.