



The Nature of Milam County

Mammals Meeting
3/25/2015 at 7:00 pm

The first meeting of the Mammals Group was held at the home of Pamela Neeley. Members present were Katherine Bedrich, Pamela Neeley, Lucy Coward, Cindy Bolch, Sue Taylor and Janice Johnson.

The group made a list of mammals found in Milam County:

- Armadillos
- Bats
- Beavers
- Bobcats
- Coyote
- Eastern white tail rabbits
- Foxes
- Gophers
- Feral hogs
- Jackrabbits
- Mice
- Moles
- Nutria
- Opossums
- Otters
- Raccoons
- Rats
- Skunks
- Squirrels
- Voles
- White tailed deer

The group looked at Katherine's collection of assorted mammal books, tracks, fake scat, bones, and identification cards. The group discussed possible chapter and educational projects related to mammals, including teaching about tracking and scat identification. The goal is to educate ourselves, and then others. Discussion was held regarding creating photographic references for identification cards.

Each member of the group will choose 1 or 2 mammals to research and present. Suggested research information includes

- Common name
- taxonomy (family/genus/order),
- prey or predator
- food

habitat
mating information
reproduction/offspring information (frequency, litter size)
life span
coloration and other identifying characteristics
track
scat
call sound
sightings
status (endangered, etc)
legends and folklore, including mythology, cultural information
attempt to get photograph taken in Milam County (can use other photo in the meantime)

Members selected the following mammals to research:

Cindy Bolch: Mexican free tail bats, fox tail squirrels

Lucy Coward: striped skunk, armadillo

Pamela Neely: raccoon, vole

Sue Taylor: gray fox, red fox, feral hogs

Janice Johnson: opossums, jackrabbits

Katherine Bedrich: cotton hispid rats (field rats), Eastern cottontail rabbits

The group will make a notebook with all gathered information.

Meetings will be held every 2-3 months, probably on Wednesdays or Fridays. Two presentations will be made at each meeting. Presenters will make copies for all Mammal Group members.

A PowerPoint presentation can possibly be made with information gathered.

The project will be a part of the Nature of Milam County project.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 pm. Cindy Bolch will organize the meeting. Cindy Bolch will present information on bats, and Sue Taylor will present information on feral hogs.

Notes submitted by: Janice Johnson