



November 2018 - Chapter Talk and Projects Meeting

August 29, 2018, 10 am – 1 pm
Cedar Hill Ranch

Participants:

Joyce Conner, Donna Lewis, and Lisa Milewski

Report:

Old and New Business:

Although participants met to prepare for the November 2018 Chapter Talk "Rethinking Recycling," there were several issues that were first discussed.

Donna brought books from Half-Price Books to share with Lisa and Joyce. Joyce will put the ones she took into the "chapter library" boxes that she is storing at her house. Donna has the larger share of the "chapter library" and some day we hope that the boxes of books can be placed in a location for all of the members' use. Lisa is to check on whether time collecting these books by Donna can be counted on VMS.

We should ensure that donated books from Half-Price Books have the UPC code crossed out with a marker, as the books should not be resold. If no UPC code, there should be some notation made on the book that they are donated. Donna donates extra books from Half-Price Books to the Cameron Library and those that do not go onto the shelves are given to children free. This is another reason the codes need to be crossed out, as the future of these books is unknown.

It was suggested that we ask **Mike Conner** to look into tax receipts for people donating materials (t-shirts, books, etc.) to the chapter. (Update: Mike says he has a receipt packet that can be used for this purpose. If Half-price Books would like to have something, Donna should work that out with him. Otherwise, members can let him know what they are donating, and he can give them a receipt for tax purposes.) Donna also suggested that we keep in mind that CC Creations (t-shirt printing company in College Station) might have misprinted t-shirts that they would be willing to donate to our chapter for making fabric tote bags.

Donna spoke about her efforts to get a Bee talk in Rockdale, following a newspaper article that indicated there were killer bees in town. After many phone calls, she has managed to get Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspection Service, at A&M to commit to give a public talk on either Sept. 14 or Oct. 5. Our chapter may be hosting this with AgriLife. The location and exact hours are tbd, however, it is anticipated to be approximately from 10-noon.

Joyce suggested that **Mike Conner** scan the newspaper article and email it to Mary Reed, 979-845-9714, txbeeinspection.tamu.edu, so that she understands what has already been sent out to the public (without any expert input). If Mike needs more contact information, he should ask Donna.

Lisa suggested that time spent by members once the talk is confirmed would likely be **Presentation:Direct**, and that Donna should talk to Kathy Lester to confirm. Donna anticipates that the talk would give the chapter an opportunity to place chapter brochures and contact information on a table. She would also like some kind of refreshments provided.

November Chapter Talk:

Joyce confirmed with others that the November presentation would **not** be a crafts program, but instead the opening of a conversation about what individuals could do to reduce the consumption of resources by re-using them. She would like to start the program during the meal, in which she would run a short slideshow suggesting a paradigm shift from the over-emphasis on recycling to an emphasis on re-use (after Refuse, Reduce, and before Recycle, and Rot [or compost]). The slideshow would review some of the current findings regarding recycling/non-recycling.

Then, Lisa would present her idea to provide fabric tote bags for take-homes after chapter educational events. We reviewed her directions and some edits will be made. We explored the different ways to finish the product (inside out, knots on the inside). We explored the option of leaving the seams around the sleeves and around the neck for stronger edges. We confirmed that tight knots will prevent most items from falling out of the bottoms.

Chapter members will be given the opportunity to make chapter tote bags or make them to take home.

Lisa will print out 10 copies of her directions on one sheet of paper for members who do not have easy access to computers.

Update: Joyce will send Don an updated description of the program and suggestions that members bring their own t-shirts (especially if they want to keep them), fabric cutting scissors, rulers, and pencils.

If time permits at the meeting, Joyce would present her idea to re-use calendars and other decorative papers to produce gift boxes. We reviewed her directions and some edits will be made. Joyce will print out her directions on one sheet of paper for members who do not have easy access to computers.

During Lisa and Joyce's presentations, the two speakers who are not presenting will walk around the room helping members. During Joyce's presentation, the directions will be given via slideshow, as they are complicated.

If time permits at the meeting, Donna will present her idea to re-use unrecyclable plastic barrels for gardens and water retention containers.

Joyce will ask Don whether ideas and directions can be placed somewhere on the chapter webpage. Several people have emailed her website addresses on which there are more ideas and these could also be attached to our website. This would reduce the need to print everyone's ideas on paper.

Before the meeting adjourned, Joyce presented a homemade frog habitat to Donna and to Lisa made by Mike Conner and grandchildren. They were shown where there were successfully hung at the ranch. Currently, there are two gray tree frogs and one green tree frog living in three of the habitats at the ranch. (Update: Donna has been sent the YouTube video of instructions. Joyce will try to write out the instructions for members who do not have computer access.)

VT: 3 hours – **Community Presentations – Direct** Description – Preparation for November Chapter Meeting Talk and Projects - Milam County; plus any time used for preparation and follow-up of the meeting, and travel. In addition, Lisa brought refreshments.