



CAMERON STEAKTOBER BAT TALK AND CHAPTER INFORMATION TABLE REPORT

October 13, 2018/Noon – 1 p.m.
Milam County Historical Museum

Participants:

Primary Lead, Bat Talk: Cindy Bolch, Central Texas Chapter; Assisted By: Mike Conner, El Camino Real Chapter
Information Tables: Joyce Conner, Tina Foster, Catherine Johnson, Phyllis Shuffield, Patrick Still - El Camino Real Chapter

Report:

Seven Texas Master Naturalists arrived on a day predicting 65% rain and possible tornado to help with a bat talk and several Chapter information tables. The day started at 11 am, when participants arrived to set up the Texas Master Naturalist El Camino Real Chapter information tables and help get the talk area in order. Luckily, the Bat Presentation was the first of the day and we were able to get an additional table for Cindy on which to set up some bat information materials and a tri-fold in her section of the room. A sidewalk sign was placed outside of the museum door to entice people to hear the bat talk.

There had been miscommunication about the time of the talk, but because it actually fell *after* the assumed time, we were able to adapt. We used the extra 30 minutes to interest people in the talk and our chapter. Once the presentation began, talking to the public at our table was more difficult, as sound carried in the large room.

While Mike Conner ensured that Cindy's audio/visual equipment was set up and working throughout the program, the rest of us invited museum visitors to our information table where we had our tri-fold showing examples of our interests and activities, contact cards, Master Naturalist information brochures, bookmarks, stickers, insect charm bracelets, bat cookies, a bat tree, two pollinator posters, and bat decorations for take-home. Several of us even ventured outside the museum and invited Steaktobber participants inside.

Prior to her talk, a video played in the front of the museum about the history of Dutchtown and afterwards a video was to play on the history of Carl Black. This is mentioned for future reference because it took us about 30 minutes to set up and the same to close down. Had the videos actually been speakers in the areas where we were, this would have been problematic. We needed the time and space, and flurry of activity. And, that would have required us to be quieter.

Our stats were: Men – 14 (+ 2 Master Naturalists), Women – 14 (plus 5 Master Naturalists); Youth Male – 5, Youth Female -5. The total was 45. Most of these people at least checked in at the Bat Presentation, although several parents with children did not stay the entire time of the talk. Considering the weather and time of day during the event, this was a good showing.

This volunteer activity (VT) is to be recorded in VMS under **Presentations:Indirect:** Description - Cameron Steaktobber – Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Information Table - Milam County; approximate 2.5 hour time, including set-up and clean-up time as needed, plus travel time. If attended time in bat talk, reduce VT accordingly and add time in AT under "At a chapter meeting or other venue." Description – Bat Talk by Cindy Bolch, Texas Master Naturalist, Central Texas Chapter.