



ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING AD HOC COMMITTEE EARTH DAY INTERIM MEETING REPORT

February 13, 2019/10-noon

Cedar Hill Ranch – Earth Day Interim Meeting of Environment and Recycling Ad Hoc Committee

Participants:

Primary Lead: Donna Lewis

Participants: Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, and Donna Lewis

Report:

2019 Earth Day at Rockdale Community Center, 109 N. Main, on Saturday, April 20, 10 am – 2 pm.

The participants first discussed monthly speakers and educational treasure chests given to our chapter at the Annual Meeting by the Central Texas Chapter.

Monthly speakers:

February Speaker – Dr. Thoms had to postpone his talk to our membership and is rescheduling. Instead, Donna Lewis will show a film of her NABA (North American Butterfly Association) Certified Butterfly Garden. Mike made 25 copies of “native plants for butterflies” handouts. Kathy Lester will demonstrate how to make eggshell planters and Mike will hand out cardboard egg cartons to member volunteers for holding the planters – both needed for Earth Day. Seeds and compost soil will be supplied by each volunteer. Volunteers must ensure that their seedlings are started on time and are delivered to Earth Day. Planters will be given out to the public on Earth Day.

Since Donna will be leading the February meeting, Phyllis will email an agenda to Donna/Joyce prior to the meeting.

Future Speakers on **Recycling** – Donna will email the speaker dates available and Joyce will coordinate with the interested recycling companies on dates and answers to questions that we would like to have answered.

Future Speaker from **TreeFolks** – Joyce corresponded with the Bastrop coordinator about getting a speaker for our membership and also saplings to give away at Earth Day. Both are no longer feasible: their speaker needs \$80-100 for travel and time and saplings are not viable for planting in April. This idea has now been dropped from Earth Day and monthly meeting plans.

Educational Chests:

Chests contain 3-D series of animal life cycles, rubbings of animal figures, and rubber animal figures. Mike will glue several pollinating animals’ life cycles on boards and label them. If Larry feels comfortable having the boards at his “Promoting our Pollinators” table, they will go there on Earth Day. Joyce will use the rubbings of pollinating insects at the Children’s table on Earth Day. Donna will store the chests at her house.

[Donna asked assistance in downloading some literature from a workshop that she and Cathy Johnson attended together on monarchs.]

Earth Day Tables and Arrangement:

The following tables were reviewed and a potential map of the room drawn:

1. **Tote bag give-away;** Tina Foster? We need to *print up instructions to place in each bag*. Joyce and Mike are reusing pvc pipes as a rack on which to hang the totes for easy access. Members will donate wire hangers that they no longer use on which to hang the totes. Extra totes will be in boxes behind the rack. A sign behind the rack will suggest other ways for using totes.
2. **Plastics and What Their Recycling Numbers Mean** (trifold with objects) – Mike – needs to be saving samples of plastics for his board. He will have at least one handout.
3. **Children's activity table area** – Joyce will work with Darlene Reynolds and Barbara Paschall if they are available. They will help children make paper boxes and create pictures using the insect rubbings from our new treasure chest. This area will be about the size of 3-4 tables with chairs and will be in the back of the room.
4. **Promoting our Pollinators** – Larry Kocian (his 2018 Earth Day pollinator posters); *Possibly place insect life cycle 3-D boards here.*
5. **Composting/Seedlings** - Kathy Lester will demo egg shell planters at Feb. meeting. If Thorndale Garden Club or Master Gardeners unable to man the table, we will ask our members to plant seeds (using Donna's list – see February Speaker section) in egg shell containers and man the table. Seedlings would be given to public. *Planting date needed?* Donna has not heard back from the Garden Club yet and may ask Master Gardeners (through Larry?) whether they would like to join us at that table that day.

Donna has about 50 native wildflower seed packets that are leftovers from the Highway Department that she will donate to this table for take-aways.

6. **Girl Scout Table** – The Rockdale Girl Scouts would like to produce and man a table. Donna will check it to see compatibility with our other tables. The topic should be ready for her to review by early March.
7. **What to do with it now?** Cathy and Rosie will have two tables, one for literature and the other for ideas. [note: use this instead of that; reuse, recycle]
8. **What to do with it now?** Cathy and Rosie's second table.
9. **Take Care of Texas** – Lisa Milewski will set up and man a table from that organization like she did last year.
10. **Food Table** – do we need drinks? If so, in cans rather than plastic? Should members contribute snacks, like last year?
11. **USDA** – tables will be like last year with pamphlets and take-away items
12. **Possible additional table:** Joyce will email Jenecia and Burt to see whether they would like to have a table talking about how to make and possibly sharing their yaupon tea.

Other items discussed:

Joyce found out that Nancy Adcock had supplied the list and recipes of homemade cleaners. Joyce emailed the website from which they came for permission to print them in bulk on Earth Day but has not heard back.

Larry, Cathy, Rosie – are still doing advertising [post note – should include flyers for post offices, churches, libraries; articles in newspapers; articles online] We do not know whether they are going to write about recycling as suggested by Kathy Lester.

We forgot to speak about Ann Collins' idea of having or making a sample bee box. This is still an open suggestion!

Donna has been corresponding with a member of the Gulf Coast Chapter who is interested in knowing about our efforts regarding recycling. Joyce suggested that Donna direct this person to our website under Natural Areas/Environmental Protection and Recycling. We have been putting all of our work there and Donna would not then need to reconstruct our efforts.

Note:

This volunteer activity is to be recorded in VMS under **Community Outreach: Indirect**; Description – 2019 Earth Day preparation meeting. 2 hrs for the meeting, plus preparation and followup time, plus travel time. (Any additional follow-up activities of this meeting should be entered on the day performed under **Community Outreach: Indirect** with description of Earth Day activity.)

Next full meeting is still set to be **Saturday, March 2, 11-1 pm, at Catherine Johnson's house, 110 Champions Drive, Rockdale (Home Phone=512-446-3885)**. All chapter members are invited.