



ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING AD HOC COMMITTEE EARTH DAY INTERIM MEETING REPORT

March 2, 2019/11 am -1:30 pm

Catherine Johnson Home, Rockdale – Earth Day preparation meeting

Participants:

Primary Lead: Donna Lewis

Participants: Ann Collins, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Catherine Johnson, Rosie Johnson (guest and helper), Sue Ann Kendall, Larry Kocian, Kathy Lester, 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 educational kits and progress made labeling life cycles of insect models by Mike Conner. One model was removed from the set, which still needed to be completed. Joyce suggested that we could make herbarium habitat models using the snakes for future talks. Donna will bring several of the life cycle models to be placed on Larry's Earth Day pollination/pollinator table. The kits will be stored with Donna.

Joyce explained that she is keeping the insect rubbings for now, as she is labeling each one and will be using them at the Children's tables at Earth Day as a project. They will then be transferred to Donna for long-term storage.

Ann Collins asked about the matching game that Mike had made. She said that she had been given the bird one made by the Brazos Valley Chapter for our future events. [Post note: Joyce found the animal track matching game that Mike made and it can be checked out from them by our chapter for any future events.] Ann also said that she knew where the water flow demo was stored in Cameron with the Master Gardener supplies. She will check on its whereabouts and let everyone know. She also asked group if anyone had the animal track molds. No one at this meeting knew where they were, as they had been housed by Katherine Bedrich.

This conversation about supplies led to discussion about storage rooms. Sue Ann offered to look into the possibility of our chapter having part of a storage room at one of her buildings in Cameron [411 Main St.]. It would be climate controlled, and once the building is renovated might be another location for our chapter meetings. She will check on this. [Post note: Joyce checked with Mike and found out that we currently donate around \$300/year to the Milano church for our meetings. Sue Ann's husband agreed to host monthly meetings and says \$300 is fine. If we host the training class there next year, we would probably want to give more, since that takes away a lot of potential rental time.]

Donna broached the topic of providing a pin or patch for Earth Day TMN participants. The general consensus was that a pin was more desirable. Kathy Lester is going to do some research on this.

Earth Day Tables and Arrangement:

There are a few changes to the tables. Donna is still planning on visiting the room and measuring it off so that we know how to best arrange them, but no date decided.

1. **Tote bag give-away;** It was decided that the tote table should be placed immediately at the front door. Both Linda Jo and Ann offered to lead it. T-shirt totes will be hung on a rack (with poster attached suggesting other ways to use them), and backpack totes and Post Oak Savannah Conservation District fabric totes will be mostly in boxes. All t-shirt totes will contain directions on how to make them.

Joyce reported that we had about 50 t-shirt totes (but will give an exact number at our March meeting). Sue Ann offered to make more totes, as everyone agreed that 100 should be our target.

2. **Plastics and What Their Recycling Numbers Mean** (trifold with objects) – Mike has examples of plastics 1, 2, 5, and 6. He would appreciate getting clean, good examples of 3, 4, and 7 (Styrofoam). He will have at least one handout. However, if room is tight, he is willing to put his poster along another table, thus saving space. Sue Ann will have information about the dangers of plastic bagging to the environment.
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. She will have handouts (instructions for paper box and “crystals” to demonstrate reuse).
4. **Promoting our Pollinators** – Larry (and his 2018 Earth Day pollinator posters) will now have bee boxes (from Ann Collins) and Life Cycles from educational kits on his table.
5. **Seedlings** - Kathy will give away egg shell planters/seedlings, Donna’s list of flowers for butterflies list handout, and prepackaged seeds from our members and organizations (like Highway Dept – from Donna). Linda Jo and Donna will prepackage some native seeds [no tropical milkweed seeds, though] with planting instruction sheets. We talked about giving away the seedlings in tiny paper cups (however, if giving away more than one seedling, we could cut cardboard egg cartons into trays). It was suggested that this table be at the door so that visitors got them as they were leaving.
6. Donna has not heard back from the **Garden Club** or Master Gardeners yet. She will confirm that topics are Earth Day appropriate.
7. Second table, if both Garden Club and **Master Gardeners** attend. We are hoping one of them will do **Composting**.
8. **Girl Scout Table** – The Rockdale Girl Scouts would like to produce and staff a table. Donna will check it to see compatibility with our other tables when they next talk.
9. **What to do with it now?** Topics include: Where to take your problem recycling and Use This Instead of This. Cathy and Rosie will now have one table with examples and handouts.
10. **Take Care of Texas** – Lisa Milewski will set up and staff a table from that organization like she did last year.
11. **Food Table** – do we need drinks? If so, in cans. Also, Ann offered to make lemonade-type drinks and will bring server and Cathy will bring paper cups. Members should contribute snacks (bought or homemade), like last year.
12. **USDA** – tables will be like last year with pamphlets and take-away items

13. **El Camino Real Chapter table** - [Post note: Jackie Thornton to lead on this table.] Donna will bring tri-fold and other pamphlets. The table is to highlight who we are and what we do.

14. **Possible additional table:** Donna will check on Jenecia and Burt to see whether they are still interested in hosting a table about how to make and possibly sharing their yaupon tea. She also needs to see whether Jenecia has been able to make any totes.

Other items discussed:

Advertising: Larry, Cathy, Rosie – are still doing advertising [post note – should include flyers for post offices, churches, libraries; articles in newspapers; articles online]. On Earth Day, 9 am – Garden radio show with Master Gardener, 10 am – Master Naturalists talk Earth Day, maybe Girl Scouts (?), visitors could also be interviewed. Cathy working with Rockdale newspaper for a nice sized ad to run for three weeks. Lexington and Cameron were also suggested.

Signage: Donna will check again with Mel and then maybe the City Manager about signage across/above the highway, as well as on the sidewalk, at the street corner and in front of the building, like wind signs and flag-type signs. Linda Jo suggested that one of our tables might be placed outside of the room along the front windows to draw in people. This also needs approval.

AT Training: Reminder of Milam Wildscape training at Birds and Bees, 3/3/19, 1 pm.

(Ann, Kathy, Joyce, and Donna drove to Birds and Bees after the meeting to confirm location. They met with the owner and were given a tour of his main bird building and discussion of his turkeys and guineas.)

Note:

This volunteer activity is to be recorded in VMS under **Community Outreach: Indirect**; Description – 2019 Earth Day preparation meeting. Full attendance = 2.5 hrs for the meeting, plus preparation and followup time, hostess credit if food brought/served, 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.)

No follow-up meeting planned.