

**Texas Master Naturalist**  
**El Camino Real Chapter**

Chapter Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2019, Milano

NOTE: The May 2019 meeting was canceled due to bad weather.

6-6:30: Potluck meal

**Program:** Marty Irwin spoke about range conservation on the Alcoa property. Gary Johnson introduced him. A summary will appear on our blog.

Phyllis Shuffield called the meeting to order at 7:37.

There were 31 attendees, including: Scott Berger, Sherry Colley, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Lucy Coward, Sandra Dworaczyk, Jackie Fields, Pat Holley, Catherine Johnson, Gary Johnson (guest), Janice Johnson, Sam Jolly (guest), Sue Ann Kendall, Larry Kocian, Kathleen Lester, Donna Lewis, Dorothy Mayer, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley, Phyllis Shuffield, Debbie Sorensen (guest), Patrick Still, Kim Summers, Cindy Travis, and Don Travis.

**Nature Stories:**

- Sue Ann reported seeing bald eagles and alligators in Florida.
- Pamela Neeley reported watching an odd dance between a coyote and a doe, where the doe appeared to be chasing the coyote.
- Lisa Milewski saw a beautiful polyphemus moth and a killer beehive.
- Ann Collins reported rat snakes in her henhouse, which had never happened before. Sue Ann said it happened to her, too. The Conners had snakes eating their fake eggs, but Joyce manages to milk them out of the snakes, which is something else. Ann also stepped on a copperhead. It's a big year for snakes.
- Donna Lewis had two snakes in her purple martin houses, which was quite an achievement, since she has many barriers. One was very large. They returned. There was much discussion of moving snakes far enough away and whether that could then be a problem for the snakes.
- Linda Jo Conn participated in an iNaturalist contest by identifying thousands of observations. One was by Lisa Milewski, so she got a sticker.
- Phyllis Shuffield correctly identified a purple finch in Kerrville, though no one wanted to believe her.

**Secretary Report:**

- No changes from April meeting. Pamela Neeley moved that they be accepted, and Donna Lewis seconded.

**Vice President Report:** Next month, Cindy Bolch is going to speak about bats.

**Treasurer Report:** Mike Conner reports we have \$5144.08 in the treasury and have 36 paid dues.

**Communications:** Don Travis had nothing new. Sue Ann Kendall requested blog articles.

**Host:** Sherry Colley had nothing new.

**Membership:** Lisa Milewski:

- Recertifications: from May, Mike Conner
- Milestones: Mike Conner, 1,000 hours
- Note that any hours past 45 days will need to be vetted by the chapter board and requested by the chapter president. They will only be allowed for extenuating circumstances.

**Advanced Training and Volunteers:** Kathy Lester says we are gearing up for next year's class, and to please let her know about anyone who would be interested in attending.

#### **Activities and Announcements:**

Donna Lewis reported that Earth Day went fairly well. She thanked all who participated and is looking for input for different things to try next time. Summary and photos are on the blog.

Cathy Johnson reported on the Milano Girl Scout troop's visit to the Bird and Bee Farm Wildscape, where Lisa Milewski and Donna Lewis spoke, and Pamela Neeley and Dorothy Mayer attended and enjoyed themselves. 23 people in all attended, and the girls got badges. A horticulturist is going to come in and consult with the owners on the project. Summary and photos are on the blog.

Cathy also reported that the All Things Wild project is also going well. The Conners and their daughter-in-law set free a family of 11 baby opossums at their ranch, which was the first release in Milam County for the group.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** none

The meeting adjourned at 8:32. Sue Ann Kendall moved to adjourn; Mike Conner seconded.

AT: 1 hours

VE: .75 hour for meeting

VE: 1 hour hospitality, if you brought food

Respectfully submitted by Sue Ann Kendall