

Texas Master Naturalist

El Camino Real Chapter

Chapter Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2019, Milano

6-6:30: Potluck meal

Program: Tim Siegmund spoke on Prairies, Woodlands, Wildlife, and Managing for Diversity. A summary will appear on our blog. He spoke for 1.5 hours.

Donna Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:05.

Visitors: Sharon Flanagan from Louisiana is visiting Lynn Hagan. Jan Jatzlan from Master Gardeners and Debbie Sorenson were also in attendance, along with Bryce Conner, who was helping out Mike Conner.

Nature Stories:

- Linda Jo Conn went to the bluebird society meeting.
- Sue Ann Kendall saw doodlebugs tossing dirt around.
- Kim Summers saw some impressive frogs.
- Scott Berger saw a beautiful hummingbird
- Donna Lewis says: change out your hummingbird nectar or grow native hummingbird plants, instead.
- Catherine Johnson reports on a company that is making faux wood out of plastic. She was happy to learn about different ways to recycle, since recycling is harder these days.
- Try to avoid use in the first place, says Mike Conner. He also pointed out that it is the worst is when trash ends up in the wrong place and not safely in a landfill.

President Report:

- Phyllis Shuffield was not at the meeting.

Secretary Report:

- Sue Ann Kendall, substitute secretary, asked if there were any changes to last month's meeting notes, and none were reported. Donna Lewis moved that they be accepted, and Pamela Neeley seconded.

Vice President Report:

- Next month, Aloma Clayton from Master Gardeners will speak about raised beds and keyhole gardens.
- She asked how many people are going to the Master Naturalist conference in October, and many said yes.

- In October the speakers are Donna Lewis and Cathy Johnson.
- November is Kelly Simone on gardening with climate change.
- Donna also mentioned that the *Serengeti* television show is good for naturalists.
- Let Donna know if you have a topic of interest.

Treasurer Report:

- Mike Conner reports we \$5141.43 before writing some checks. 37 paid dues.

Communications:

- Don Travis has information on the upcoming groundwater summit, an all-day session. Sue Ann Kendall requested blog articles.

Host:

- Sherry Colley was not at the meeting.

Membership:

Lisa Milewski was not at the meeting. She will present acknowledgement of these milestones next month:

- Initial Certification: Jacquelyn Fields
- Recertifications:
 - Kathy Lester
 - Sharon Sweet
 - Wesley Sweet
 - Jackline Thornton
 - Don Travis
- Milestones:
 - Pamela Neeley - 500 Hours
 - Jackline Thornton - 250 Hours

Advanced Training and Volunteers:

- Kathy Lester says to start recruiting new people for the next class. We need a flyer. Thinks the class will be in January or during the day. Or not. They will decide this later.
- Question: Is an activity from another chapter okay for us to do? Yes

Activities and Announcements:

- From Linda Jo Conn: Blackland Prairies is doing a project transcribing information from an herbarium. There is training online or a session at the upcoming conference.
- The pollinator garden in Milano is still an issue. Our name is on it. We need to do this in the fall. Janice will remove the sunflowers in the meantime.

- The meeting to put together the brochure about the El Camino Real trail is August 9 at 10 am at the Rockdale Public library.

Old Business:

From Linda Jo Conn: Regarding ECR Nature Fest materials stored at building at Hwy 79 / FM 1786 intersection (turnoff to Alcoa), Linda Jo Conn contacted Collier Perry about the presence or absence of ECR inventory at the building. He said the materials had been removed from the building, but she was welcome to visit the location and investigate. Linda Jo visited the building on August 7 and found no ECR inventory in the area in which it had been stored. Assumption made by her that materials are gone and to be forgotten.

New Business: none

The meeting adjourned at 8:35. Sue Ann Kendall moved to adjourn; Mike Conner seconded.

AT: 1.5 hours

VE: .5 hour for meeting

VE: 1 hour hospitality, if you brought food

Respectfully submitted by Sue Ann Kendall