

Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Chapter meeting – November 14, 2019, Milano

Eat and socialize: 6:00-6:30

Program: Donna Lewis presented a program about bluebirds. One hour. Details will appear on our blog.

Chapter Meeting

President Phyllis Shuffield called the meeting to order (7:40)

Guests: Debbie Sorenson

Secretary Report: Sue Ann Kendall reported that the minutes were emailed and posted on web. Questions or comments? Vote to approve. Janice Johnson moved to approve; Pamela Neeley seconded.

Vice President Report: Next meeting is holiday party. It will be at Sandra Dworaczyk's home again. We will help with setup. There will be a white elephant gift exchange and potluck meal. There are surprises in store for next year.

Treasurer Report: Michael Conner reported we have over \$4,000 in the bank. Dues (\$20) for next year can be paid now. Many people paid.

Committee Reports

Communications: Don Travis reminded everyone about our calendar, which you can download to your own calendar.

Host: Sherry Colley was not in attendance.

Membership: Lisa Milewski was not in attendance.

Carol Williams was recertified.

Members who recertified this year received their golden-cheeked warbler pins (presented by Phyllis Shuffield). Next year's pin will be the bumblebee.

Advanced Training and Volunteer:

The 2020 class will begin January 16. It will be at 411 Main Street in Cameron. That is the Hermit Haus, the former Christian Church in Cameron, across from the First Baptist Church. Encourage your friends to sign up. We will be putting an ad in the newspaper.

2019 Master Naturalist Conference:

Mike Mitchell, who helped found our group, will retire from TPW soon and re-join us as a member of our chapter.

Each member who attended the conference shared a memory of something they enjoyed.

Old Business:

There is money in the Rockdale Hotel Occupancy Tax fund that will allow the hotel association to reprint copies of the wildflower brochure to be put in Milam County hotels. In return, we will put their logo on the brochures and list them as a sponsor.

New Business:

Officers: The Board presented the following slate of officers to the membership.

- President: Sue Ann (Suna) Kendall
- Vice President: Donna Lewis
- Secretary: Dorothy Mayer
- Treasurer: Mike Conner
- Committee Directors:
 - AT/Volunteer: Pamela Neeley
 - Membership: Lisa Milewski
 - Communications: Don Travis
 - Host: Sherry Colley
 - Training Class: Kathy Lester
 - Past President: Phyllis Shuffield

Voting to approve will occur at the December Chapter Meeting.

Mike Connor brought forth a proposal from the Board that we relax our practice of having AT presentations at each chapter meeting and instead have activities or projects at some meetings. After discussion of pros and cons, the suggestion was tabled until after next year.

Mike Connor shared that there will be a controlled burn at his ranch some time after December 1. Members are invited to attend and receive AT or Volunteer hours, as relevant. Contact Mike to be put on a list to be notified when the burn is scheduled.

Joyce Conner pointed out that an Economic Development Summit for Milam County will be held on November 20. Some of the content will be relevant for AT. Joyce passed out information on it. Contact her for more information.

Nature Stories:

Many members shared stories of snakes, including copperheads, timber rattlesnakes, western rattlesnakes, and rat snakes.

Adjourn: (8:35) Sue Ann Kendall moved to adjourn and Pamela Neeley seconded.

Hours:

1 hour AT

1 hour hospitality

1 hour meeting

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall