

Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Chapter meeting – May 14, 2020, WebEx

Attendees (since we can't do a sign-up sheet): Paul Crump (speaker), Elizabeth Bates (speaker); Cincy Bolch, Marian Buegeler, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Carolyn Henderson, Janice Johnson, Sam Jolly, Sue Ann Kendall, Kathy Lester, Donna Lewis, Liz Lewis, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley, Eric Neubauer, John Pruett, Alan Rudd, Debra Sorensen, Patrick Still, Jackie Thornton (meeting portion only), Cindy Travis, Don Travis, Carol Williams.

Thank you to all 24 people who attended, especially our training class members!

Eat and socialize: 6:00 – 6:15 Eat whenever you want to; this is just time to get everyone all settled in.

Program: 6:15 pm – 8:00 pm (1.75 hours)

Dr. Paul Crump TPWD Herpetologist and Dr. Elizabeth Bates TPWD Conservation Initiatives presented a talk on endangered and rare species protection in Texas, with a focus on the Houston Toad, which has historically been found in Milam County. Mike Conner introduced.

Thanks to everyone who participated!

Chapter Meeting 8:00 pm – 8:35 pm (.5 hours)

President Report (Sue Ann Kendall):

- Master Naturalists are still asked to hold meetings virtually.
- A chapter Zoom account will be purchased soon, by Mike Conner. We will send details on how to access it when they are available.
- Our website will be updated to a more modern format in early June. We will work to keep all our historical content.
- NEW: There is a survey being sent via email about potential attendance at the annual meeting. Please respond to it.

Vice President Report (Donna Lewis): Donna was on the phone but unable to unmute herself. This will not be a problem in Zoom meetings, because we'll be able to unmute her.

Secretary Report (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve April minutes. Mike Conner moved to approve; Don Travis seconded.

Treasurer Report (Michael Conner): \$5105.38 – 35 people have paid dues, as well as students who have paid for the class. We have plenty of funds for the Zoom account.

Committee Reports

Communications: Don Travis. Send Don your email announcements, and send Sue Ann blog articles. We have been getting some great blogs!

Host: Sherry Colley. We are storing all the Master Naturalist items safely at the Hermit Haus (including items from Katherine Bedrich). If anyone needs anything, Sue Ann can put them in the carport to be picked up.

Membership: Lisa Milewski.

Awards for May:

- Recertification – Mike Conner

Those who are participating in the Monarch Watch milkweed project, please use Community Outreach – Indirect. A specific category for this activity is planned. Please keep reporting your hours.

Advanced Training and Volunteer: Class: Kathy Lester. No news.

AT: Pamela Neeley. Pamela has approved the webinar on “All About Trees: Forests, Water and People” on May 21 for AT.

State Representative: Linda Jo Conn (unable to speak at meeting). A meeting of state representatives is scheduled for later in the month. The April iNaturalist observation of the month was by Pamela Neeley (below).

Old Business:

- Pins were mailed to all who have been recertified in 2020.

New Business:

- A collection of material from Katherine Bedrich was retrieved by Sue Ann and Phyllis Shuffield. It includes some signs, posters, books, plant presses, extensive research notes, and freshwater mussels.
- Project Reports from Catherine Johnson:
 - Monarch Watch Milkweed Project – monitoring antelope horn milkweed that was donated to be planted in Milam and Lee Counties. There are 7 participants this year. Others can participate next year.
 - Bird and Bee Farm Wildscape has mason bees. Future plans are to have many events when they open back up. They will give away our brochures and other material. Sam Jolly will be making some bee habitats for use there and by Girl Scouts.

Nature Stories:

- Carolyn Henderson saw a lot of lightning bugs during the meeting.
- Suna has a tiny garden that teems with life.
- Lisa has been watching Gulf fritillary and black swallowtail caterpillars in her garden.

Adjourn: Mike Conner moved that we adjourn. Pamela Neeley seconded. Meeting ended at 8:35

Hours:

Advanced Training Hours for this meeting: 1.75

VT Chapter Meeting: .5



The serendipitous cooperation of a butterfly enabled Pamela to create this work of art.

Tawny Emperor
Asterocampa clyton

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/44397810>

Pamela Neeley potterswasp

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OBSERVATION OF THE MONTH AWARD
APRIL 2020