

Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Chapter meeting – June 11, 2020, Zoom

Minutes prepared by Sue Ann Kendall, acting secretary

Attendance: Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner,* Mike Conner,* Debbie Harris, Carolyn Henderson, Catherine Johnson, Janice Johnson, Sam Jolly, Sue Ann Kendall, Larry Kocian, Kathy Lester, Donna Lewis, Liz Lewis, Lisa Milewski,* Pamela Neeley, Eric Neubauer, John Pruett, Alan Rudd, Phyllis Shuffield, Debi Sorensen, Patrick Still, Kim Summers, Cindy Travis, Don Travis

* = Chapter Meeting Only

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 – 7:45 pm

Dr. Hans Landel of the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center spoke about invasive species. He is willing to lead workshops and train members to help contribute to invasive species databases.

The question-and-answer part of the session went really well, with a mix of questions posted in the chat and people asking live. Donna Lewis was able to conference in on Suna's phone. There are some issues with receiving the sound for meetings, so we recommend dialing in, or running a test before hand, if that happens. Thanks to all who participated.

Chapter Meeting after presentation

President Report (Sue Ann Kendall):

- Master Naturalist program update.
- Website update still coming.
- The team is considering what to do about the upcoming conference, whether virtual, in-person or a combination.

Vice President Report (Donna Lewis): Upcoming Chapter Meeting presenters and other topics. Bobby Allcorn is next month, presenting on small brown birds of our area. Donna is planning month by month, so she'll announce August when she knows.

Secretary Report (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve May minutes. Donna Lewis moved to approve, and Pamela Neeley seconded.

Treasurer Report (Michael Conner): \$5132.38 in the bank, and one additional member paid 2020 dues, so we are up to 36 active members. We're not incurring many expenses right now, other than getting the Zoom Pro account for \$16 a month.

Committee Reports

Communications: Don Travis. Don noted that he receives the Texas Master Naturalist listserv (email list), which is useful, but he doesn't send everything through, since it doesn't all apply. He also shares among the Master

Gardeners, which should get us some more information. Thanks to all who have sent in blog articles, including Cindy Travis, Catherine Johnson, Ann Collins, Eric Neubauer, and Donna Lewis. Don't forget to visit our Facebook page and blog!

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

Membership: Lisa Milewski.

Awards for June:

- Milestone 1,000 hours – Wesley Sweet
- Notes from Lisa:
 - 1) Enter hours in quarters - I've been seeing some weird hours and when someone enters 1.4, I do not know if the .4 means almost 30 minutes, 45 minutes, etc.?

Example:

15 minutes - 0.25

30 minutes - 0.5

45 minutes - 0.75

2) Travel time is not allowed for anything categorized under administrative work to include chapter meetings AND advanced training. For volunteer events (VE or VT), the following applies if claiming travel time:

Travel time is added to the actual volunteer hours and the total is recorded in VMS for support of Approved Volunteer Projects ONLY (not AT or Admin/mtgs etc.). This is for projects inside or outside of Milam County and should be the actual time spent traveling round trip, but not to exceed the actual amount of direct Volunteer time at that location. (For example, if you traveled 3 hours round trip for a 1 hour project, you can only claim a total of 2 hours.)

For some projects travel is an integral part of the volunteer effort itself, such as bird count tours, wildlife animal rescue pickup and release efforts, Hill County and Bell County monarch way station work along I-35 corridor, so project time would include all those travel hours from project start to finish, plus personal round trip travel time to and from the project start/end points (if needed) not to exceed the above project time.

Advanced Training and Volunteer: Class: Kathy Lester.

- There will be a meeting of class sponsors in the coming weeks, and she will report on them. We will soon have to decide what to do about the fall class.

AT: Pamela Neeley.

- Note that ALL AT WEBINARS AND OTHER ONLINE TRAININGS MUST BE APPROVED BY PAMELA. This applies to things sponsored by TPWD or AgriLife; it's still up to the chapter to approve activities.

State Representative: Linda Jo Conn.

- Pamela Neeley gave a report on State Representative Meeting in May, which she attended in Linda Jo's stead. The information they gave was about returning to service, not necessarily our meetings. We must adhere to state, county and local regulations. We can have higher restrictions but not lower. No food. Ensure all our addresses and such are correct with the state organization, so that they can contact us.
- The May WOW iNaturalist observation of the month was by Ann Collins (see end of minutes).

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- When to start meetings in person? Sue Ann proposed we have a Zoom teleconference for people who would prefer not to attend, even once we start in-person meetings. Other options for meetings in the future with more social distancing possibilities are the upstairs at the Hermit Haus, the meeting room at the Episcopal Church in Cameron or the Peace Lutheran Church in Rockdale. One issue we need to remember is that we must also be able to clean up and truly sanitize any space we use.
- The Board will check in on members we have not heard of lately, to be sure that everyone knows we are thinking about them. Donna Lewis has already been doing some of this.
- Project Reports:
 - Milkweed from the milkweed project is alive! (Many reports)
 - Linda Jo did a great job on the invasive species week BioBlitz. Sue Ann also participated and did pretty well.
 - Wildscape: Rio Grande turkeys are laying their eggs and will hatch soon. They had a quail release (30 pairs) at their prairie. Ann Collins came, too. They plan to raise more quail and release them. Ann is consulting with the Reks on birding paths and other bird areas on the property. [Click here for a blog article with a video of the release.](#)
 - Donna and Mike McCormick have been working with purple martins. We still hope to go there.

Nature Stories:

- Suna heard a quail on her property for the first time
- All Things Wild released three Great Horned Owls on the Conner property. One dropped by the house and asked for food, so it had to go back to All Things Wild.

Adjourn: Donna Lewis moved to adjourn and Mike Conner seconded.

Hours:

Advanced Training Hours for this meeting: 1.5

Volunteer Hours for this meeting: .75

VT: Chapter Meeting



Purple Pleatleaf

Alophia drummondii

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/45269926>

Ann Collins **birdladymilam**

ECR WOW! iNATURALIST.ORG
OBSERVATION OF THE MONTH AWARD
MAY 2020