

Texas Master Naturalist  
*El Camino Real Chapter*  
Chapter meeting – July 9, 2020, Zoom

**Zoom instructions:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZAodeispzwoG9M2z3AOJwTEPyEjoxnd1T2i>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting (you just click the link and follow prompts). Once you are registered, the same link will work the rest of this year. If you clicked a link that makes you show up as “Don Travis” hover over your name and change it.

**Attendees:** Bobby Allcorn (speaker), Connie Anderle, Marilyn Buegeler, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Debbie Harris, Carolyn Henderson, Catherine Johnson, Janice Johnson, Sam Jolly, Sue Ann Kendall, Larry Kocian, Donna Lewis, Pamela Neeley, Lisa Milewski, Eric Neubauer, John Pruett, Debbi Sorenson, Patrick Still, Kim Summers, Sharon Sweet, Wesley Sweet, Cindy Travis, Don Travis

**Program: 6:07 pm**

Bobby Allcorn of Texas Parks and Wildlife talked how to identify sparrows of our area. He played the sounds of their songs, as well.

**Chapter Meeting after presentation**

**President Report** (Sue Ann Kendall):

- Master Naturalist program update was that we continue to need to meet on Zoom. There are lots of AT options you can watch virtually now.
- Conference will be virtual, and not continue to Sunday.

**Vice President Report** (Donna Lewis): Donna is working on getting speakers for the rest of the year. We will decide later what to do about the December meeting.

**Secretary Report** (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve June minutes. Donna moved to approve; Pamela seconded. Please remember to review these minutes and make any necessary changes.

**Treasurer Report** (Michael Conner): Exciting month. Nothing since May 30.

**Committee Reports**

*Communications:* Don Travis. We are looking for a way to do in person/Zoom meetings, but it’s hard to pick up on microphones. Need ones that are wireless.

*Host:* Sherry Colley. Not present.

*Membership:* Lisa Milewski.

Awards for June:

- Recertification for 2020:  
Janice Johnson  
Jackie Thornton

- Notes from Lisa (repeated from last month):
  - 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. Not present.

AT: Pamela Neeley.

- The things Don and Janice share are working well for all of us.

*State Representative:* Linda Jo Conn – not present.

#### **Old Business:**

- Website update (Don Travis). Don gave a nice tour of the website and showed us where everything is.

#### **New Business:**

- Diversity Committee? Contact Sue Ann if interested in forming a committee to reach out to a more diverse audience for our activities.
- Project Reports:
  - The milkweed project is going well. Donna Lewis and Janice Johnson's plants are growing very well. Lisa's don't look as well. Donna shared her secrets, including mulch, removing weeds, and not too much water. Janice's are in containers facing east, and looking pretty good.
  - Donna is working with her purple martins and giving them some oyster shells.
  - Sheri Sweet checks on the log cabin garden often. The Indian blankets transplant really well. They are growing like crazy.
- Other questions and comments.
  - Pamela has ordered a vest and there is one more day for sale merchandise on the MN website (7/10). The price you see IS the discount. <https://txmasternaturalistapparel.itemorder.com/sale>

**Nature Stories:**

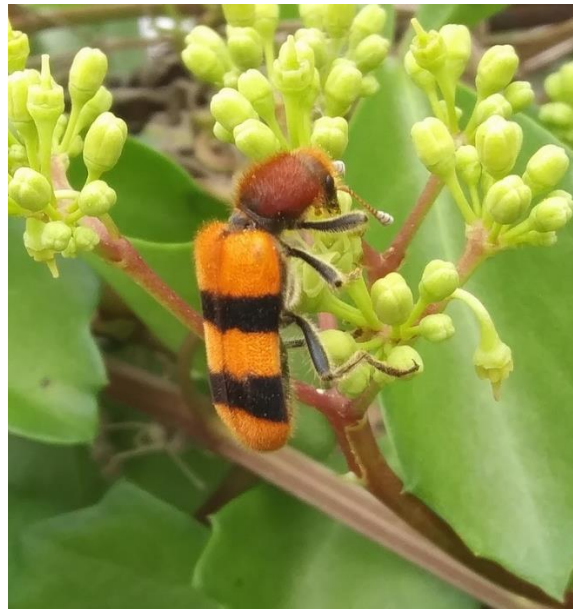
- Lisa saw Annie the Red-bellied woodpecker in Hutto (photo at right) at the food pantry, who was desecrating a cross ☺
- Sue Ann saw a jackrabbit. Sheri has seen a lot on her property.
- Sheri was sitting on the porch and heard an interesting bird sing. It was a Cassin's finch. They identified it from the song app, because they never actually saw it.
- Donna has a second clutch of bluebirds at her place.
- The eastern leopard frog Sue Ann saw is common but beautiful.



**Adjourn:** Donna Lewis motions. Sheri Sweet and others seconded.

**Hours:**

Advanced Training Hours for this meeting 1  
Volunteer Hours for this meeting 1  
VT: Chapter Meeting



*Trichodes bibalteatus*

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/52115154>

Marian Buegeler      marianmarie

ECR WOW! iNaturalist.org  
Observation of the Month Award  
June 2020

From Marian's iNat profile:

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Aldo Leopold in A Sand County Almanac (1949)