

Texas Master Naturalist  
*El Camino Real Chapter*  
Chapter meeting – November 12, 2020, Zoom

**Attendance:**

Connie Anderle, Linda Jo Conn, Carolyn Henderson, Catherine Johnson, Janice Johnson, Sam Jolly, Sue Ann Kendall, Larry Kocian, Donna Lewis, Liz Lewis, Mary Ann Melton, Lisa Milewski, John Montgomery, Eric Neubauer, Pamela Neeley, Phyllis Shuffield, Debi Sorenson, Patrick Still, Jackie Thornton, Cindy Travis, Don Travis

**Eat and socialize: 6:00 – 6:15** This time was spent panicking because the Zoom meeting setup was mixed up. But, we got it going.

**Program: 6:15 pm**

Mary Ann Melton or Goodwater Chapter presented a program on hawks of our area. Ended at 7:45.

**Chapter Meeting after Presentation**

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

- Notes from President meeting
  - Meetings/Events – Group meetings of 75% capacity of space or fewer people are allowed only if social distancing can be practiced with a limited capacity of 50 people.
  - Face coverings are required at all events, unless the county hosting the event is exempt per the Governor's Resolution GA-29 on July 2, 2020.
  - Applies to BOTH Indoor & Outdoor Programming.
- Thanks to all who have been organizing outdoor events. We have many ideas.
- Postponing in-person meetings until Q2 2021. We are considering moving meetings to Episcopal Church in Cameron when we move to in-person meetings.

**Vice President Report** (Donna Lewis): Upcoming Chapter Meeting presenters and other topics.

- Marsha May has many topics and she'll pick one for early in the year.
- Donna is checking with Bobby Alcorn as well.
- Any members of our chapter are also welcome to talk.
- Donna would still like to do Earth Day at Bird and Bee Farm.

**Secretary Report** (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve October minutes. Remember to send Sue Ann items you want to discuss at Chapter Meetings. Donna moved to approve. Pamela seconds.

**Treasurer Report** (Michael Conner): not present. You can also send your dues for next year to Mike Conner. They are \$20. His address is PO Box 8, Gause, TX 77857.

**Committee Reports**

*Communications:* Don Travis. Send Don your email announcements, and send Sue Ann blog articles. The Hawk presentation PDF and video about hawks is available on our website under Natural Areas of Interest - Ornithology.

*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 November:

- 2020 Recertification - Phyllis Shuffield
- Initial Certification - Connie Anderle
- Pins are on their way soon!
- Lisa shared our amazing stats for the volunteer time and advanced training we've been getting.
- It's time to edit your profile, so the Master Naturalist program can do your background check. Just need to have your correct information in the system. We need to do this every year, and it includes new members and current members.
- Lisa will send out the instructions for the next year.

*2020 Class Update:* Class: Kathy Lester. Not present. From Sue Ann:

- T-shirt orders will be able to come soon. Check your email for details.
- Plan is to celebrate the new members at a drive-by Saturday, December 12 event at the Hermit Haus. More details forthcoming.

AT and VT: 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. We are continuing to get hours and figure out things to do.
- Discussion of Outdoor Socially Distant Activities proposal (Linda Jo Conn and others). There have been a few get-togethers outdoors to do activities. In Nashville, the garden in Milano, and Sugarloaf mountain. The meetings are currently on Tuesdays at 10:00. Wolf Park in Rockdale is next Tuesday. Then they will search out other parks.
- Another plan is to do a field trip to Alan Rudd's place, which has quite a variety of ecosystems.

*State Representative:* Linda Jo Conn –

- WOW award of the month, Eastern carpenter bee by Debra Sorenson
- Results of Texas Pollinator Bioblitz – lots of participation by our members.
- FeederWatch starts Saturday, so there is still time to sign up.

#### **Old Business:**

- Report on guidelines from Master Naturalist Program on iNaturalist and eBird. The guidelines can be found here: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/guidance-for-community-citizen-science-projects/>
- We still are a bit unclear on some of the details.

#### **New Business:**

- Catherine Johnson: Butterfly Garden in Milano needs to be improved and cleaned up. There is also a memorial to Katherine Bedrich that needs to be improved. The grass appears to be gone. Either we can fix it up or remove the signs. Donna reports that the community was going to take over care of it once we installed it, but that has not happened. Do we have a community contact? Sandra D. can no longer do it. Donna will contact Sandra first.

#### **Nature Stories:**

- Sam Jolly says Sheri Colley saw a mountain lion while shutting her gate.

- Pamela and Eric both saw sandhill cranes, as well as Donna.
- Don T. shared a funny raccoon story. He tagged the ones he found in his traps with spray paint. Different ones kept showing up and messing up bird feeders but no repeat offenders interestingly enough. They are wiley.

**Adjourn:** 7:45 Cindy Travis moved to adjourn and Donna seconded.

**Hours:**

Advanced Training Hours for this meeting 1.5

Volunteer Hours for this meeting

VT: Chapter Meeting 1 hour



## Eastern Carpenter Bee

*Xylocopa virginica*

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/63050703>

**Debra Sorenson**

**dsorenson**

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

**Texas Pollinator BioBlitz**

