

Texas Master Naturalist  
*El Camino Real Chapter*  
Chapter meeting September 10, 2020, Zoom

**Attendees:** Connie Anderle, Marian Buegeler Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Carolyn Henderson, Catherine Johnson, Janice Johnson, Sam Jolly, Sue Ann Kendall, Donna Lewis, Liz Lewis, Dorothy Mayer, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley, Eric Neubauer, John Pruett, Alan Rudd, Debbi Sorensen, Patrick Still, Kim Summers, Sheri Sweet, Traci Talafuse (guest), Jackie Thornton, Cindy Travis, Don Travis

**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**

Eric Neubauer of the 2020 ECRMN Class will talk about grasshoppers

**Chapter Meeting after presentation 7:30**

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

- Don't forget the conference. Details are attached to the end of this document.

**Vice President Report** (Donna Lewis): Upcoming Chapter Meeting presenters and other topics. All Things Wild and their owl will be featured next month. No December meeting, probably.

**Secretary Report** (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve August minutes. **Fix July in awards.** Donna moves to accept with correction, Pamela seconds

**Treasurer Report** (Michael Conner): Four reimbursements for printing brochures, brochure folders, and Zoom account. \$4743.18 in account.

**Committee Reports**

*Communications:* Don Travis. Send Don your email announcements, and send Sue Ann blog articles. Don has a microphone setup and it works. There is a mobile transmitter that can use two types of microphones, lapel and over-the-head. There is a hand-held microphone for comments and questions. There are speakers for outside questions and the speaker.

*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 September:

- None
- 256 volunteers, 27.5 AT, 22 volunteers in August.
- There is a new user interface for reporting. It is confusing.

*2020 Class Update:* Class: Kathy Lester.

- Remaining three classes are on the schedule. The next three Thursdays.

- Use this link to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuc--ppzorEtJcQjRXiYUEaGg5x9GCdQGI> passcode frog2020
- First meeting is 5 pm; the rest are 6 pm.

*Advanced Training:* 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 – WOW award of the month (after minutes) and ideas for activities

- Great Texas Birding Classic is the month of October (postponed from spring this year). <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic> Deadline to register is September 14 (next Monday). Does cost \$15 but you get a cool T shirt with a bird wearing a mask to commemorate the circumstances. Participant results are sent to eBird.
- Texas Pollinator BioBlitz is coming up in October. Can do on Instagram, Facebook, or iNaturalist. More details later.  
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz#:~:text=October%20%2D18%2C%202020&text=All%20ages%20and%20abilities%20are,or%20the%20Facebook%20event%20pages>.

#### **Old Business:**

- Diversity Committee? Contact Sue Ann if interested.

#### **New Business:**

- Project Reports:
  - Refer to Wildscape article on blog
  - Photo contest for National Wildlife Foundation is ending soon. <https://photocontest.nwf.org/>

#### **Nature Stories:**

- Suna had largemouth bass after the flood! And she found turtle eggs that hatched.
- One of Pamela Neeley's friends was attacked by a water moccasin, but he lived.
- Carol saw a coyote really close.
- Don Travis has been feeding hummingbirds like crazy. Two feeders had 12 at least trying to get into four holes! And they had a big rat snake crawl up, through the material to try to prevent it.
- Lisa reports that Cindy Travis's bird food recipe is "bird crack."

**Adjourn:** Donna moved; Don seconds.

#### **Hours:**

Advanced Training Hours for this meeting 1.25

Volunteer Hours for this meeting .75

VT: Chapter Meeting



***Admirable Grasshopper***

*Syrbula admirabilis*

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/57720799>

**Eric Neubauer      eaneubauer**

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

**Eric has over 360 observations of Grasshoppers  
(Infraorder Acrididea)**

## TMN Annual Meeting

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-annual-meeting/>

Registration is open and we've gotten a great response from members & the public alike. Remember, our Annual Meeting is open to the public and could be a great recruiting tool for getting those interested in joining your chapters a head start on some naturalist knowledge. While they can't count hours until they're officially registered as a member, they can build on their excitement/engagement to your chapter's next training.

## TMN Annual Meeting – Contests

We have four contests running virtually with this year's Annual Meeting – their deadlines are each at the end of this month!

### CHAPTER ADVISOR AWARD

- Deadline: September 30<sup>th</sup>

### VIDEO CONTEST

- Deadline: September 30<sup>th</sup>

### PHOTO, ART, & MEDIA CONTEST

- Deadline: Entries accepted September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>

## [PROJECT FAIR](#)

- Deadline: Nominations due by Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

## TMN Annual Meeting – Virtual Nature Venture

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-virtual-nature-venture/>

This is our annual fundraising event for our Program and the Annual Meeting. The Gulf Coast Chapter is hosting and has done an incredible job pulling something \*brand new\* together for anyone and everyone to participate in and show support. Registration ends September 19<sup>th</sup>, but may be extended based on final registration totals. Use this event as a chapter challenge or social event to get your members moving, get them outside and still giving to the TMN Program and Annual Meeting.

## TMN Annual Meeting – Field Sessions Day

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-virtual-field-sessions-day/>

The local Houston regional area chapters who were busy preparing field sessions for our in-person Annual Meeting shifted and are graciously offering Virtual versions of the field sessions that normally accompany the Annual Meeting. To host each of these, we'll offer them the day PRIOR to the Annual Meeting – October 13<sup>th</sup> – they'll run live footage of their pre-recorded field tours with live Q&A. Additionally, all of this will be recorded for viewing later. As one member put it - "We sweated so you don't have to" as they recorded throughout the month of August!

## TMN Annual Meeting – Bookstore Items

<https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/category-s/1841.htm>

While there hasn't been an official announcement about this, we are working to restock the items in the AgriLife Bookstore and will be adding some fun new items related to the Annual Meeting. We are also placing the order for more lanyards as those have been requested and are currently out of stock. Keep your eyes out for these items and the official announcement later this week/early next.

## TMN Annual Meeting – Town Hall Meeting

Will be reviewing this portion of the TMN Annual Meeting as an agenda item during our September 28<sup>th</sup> presidents meeting call. More to come.

## Virtual Volunteer Fair –

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/virtual-volunteer-fair-september-2nd-2020/>

Our first ever event wrapped up last week and we will be sending the project hosts the final survey sign up lists this week. Definitely a learning lesson for us as a new event, but overall, your membership seemed to receive the event well. The VMS Quick Guide came out late in the event planning – something we'll change for next time, but it is posted on our website now. Thank you for your patience as we tried something new! We're already thinking this may be a repeat event in the early months of 2021. All resources—including the event recording—can be found at the above link