

Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Chapter meeting – January 14, 2021, Zoom

Attendees

Connie Anderle, Cindy Bolch, Marilyn Buegeler, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Carolyn Henderson, Catherine Johnson, Kathy Lester, Donna Lewis, Liz Lewis, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley, Eric Neubauer, John Pruett, Alan Rudd, Debbi Sorenson, Patrick Still, Alston Thoms, Don Travis, Cindy Travis

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

Program: 6:11 pm 50 minutes

Alston Thoms spoke about burial rites of Native Americans and about figuring out who was buried in a mysterious mound at Magagorda.

Chapter Meeting after Presentation

President Report (Sue Ann Kendall):

- We are still in the red category, which means our meeting and volunteer opportunities are severely limited. Current [guidelines](#) last until January 21.
- We will get all the certificates and name tags out to our new members as soon as the COVID issues in Cameron die down a little. This was suggested by AgriLife when I called.

Vice President Report (Donna Lewis): Upcoming Chapter Meeting presenters and other topics. Monique Reed is coming to speak in March, miniature wildflowers. Bobby Alcorn will speak in April.

Secretary Report (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve November minutes. Remember to send Sue Ann items you want to discuss at Chapter Meetings. Move to approve: Don Travis, Seconded by Pamela Neeley.

Treasurer Report (Michael Conner): Have you paid your dues? Mike will report on our 2020 finances. \$5124 to start 2020. Income \$3025, spent \$3002. We had 5146 at the end. Other than books for the students, advertising was our biggest expense. The plan is to not do so much of that. The other big expense was printing the brochures, which was very worthwhile. Mike pointed out that we tend to hover at around \$5,000. If we have needs for equipment, etc., we have money to spend it.
34 people have already paid their dues!

Committee Reports

Communications: Don Travis. Send Don your email announcements, and send Sue Ann blog articles. Check the blog for snow photos. Don will now send AT opportunities he gets in emails to Pamela to approve, so the process will be simpler. Agreed.

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 December 2020:

- Initial Certification - Marian Buegeler, Eric Neubauer, Debra Sorensen (10/8/20)
- 2020 Recertification - Sandra Dworaczyk, Elizabeth Lewis, Debra Sorensen (12/31/20), Kim Summers, Carol Williams
- Milestone - Eric Neubauer - 250 Hours
- Milestone - Sue Ann Kendall - 500 Hours
- Side oats gramma is the next pin

Class Update: Class: Kathy Lester.

- Polo shirts will be arriving in the next few days!
- What to do to recognize new members

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.
- From Catherine Johnson:
 - TM Tuesdays are approved and we could do those. Report the hours as Texas AgriLife event. Second Tuesday of the month at noon. Doug Tallamy will speak next month. You can watch them on recording, too.
 - Virtual Fair – you get hours just by watching it.
 - Water Training
 - Photo contest

State Representative: Linda Jo Conn –

- Two WOW awards of the month (see the end of the document).
- November: Mike Conner for his banded armadillo
- December: Ann Collins for crow poison and Texas paintbrush
- City Nature Challenge, last week of April. WE CAN PARTICIPATE!!! The more species the better.
- We will get an Against All Odds pin for participating in 2020.

Old Business:

- Canceled class event
- Mask order and lanyard – Mike will send an email out to collect orders.
- Joyce Conner has a reasonable number of brochures, but hasn't distributed them because of COVID.

New Business:

- Joyce Conner: Storage of chapter materials in a central location. A Chapter storage building? Or rent a storage room.

Nature Stories:

- Snow stories are on the blog.
- Catherine Johnson has an African nature story about the Green Wall. 5,000-mile wall across the continent.
- Donna still has hummingbirds.

- Eric Neubauer says the snow and rain got cotton rats all excited. He had 8 of them eating by his back door. He also saw feral hogs (2 boars and maybe 12 others) in the middle of the day going from one forest area to another across the street.
- Lisa had a question about the CoCoRaHs rain gauge and snow. Linda Jo says to think ahead and take the funnel and inner cylinder out, then bring it in the house to let it melt., then measure it in the cylinder. You can also convert inches of snow to rain. Not much rain to a lot of snow.
- Pamela's friends in Georgetown reported purple martin scouts already.

Adjourn: Donna moved to adjourn. Carolyn Henderson second.

Hours:

Advanced Training Hours for this meeting: 1

Volunteer Hours for this meeting 1 hour

VT: Chapter Meeting



Nine-banded Armadillo

Dasypus novemcinctus

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/65471038>

Mike Conner

mhconner

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



Crow Poison

Nothoscordum bivalve

Research Grade



Texas Paintbrush

Castilleja indivisa

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/67218384>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/6720671>

Ann Collins birdladymilam

**ECR WOW! iNaturalist.org
Observations of the Month Award
December 2020**