

Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Chapter meeting – March 11, 2021, Zoom

Attendees:

Connie Anderle, Marian Buegeler, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce and Mike Conner, 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, Monique Reed, Alan Rudd, Phyllis Shuffield, Debra Sorensen, Patrick Still, Cindy Travis, Don Travis, (Dorothy Mayer and Traci Talafuse 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 pm

Monique Reed will present information on teeny tiny plants and their friends. Make sure you have your ruler handy!

Chapter Meeting after Presentation

President Report (Sue Ann Kendall):

- There is no change, and we are still in the red category, which means our meeting and volunteer opportunities are severely limited. However, fully vaccinated people can follow CDC guidelines (discuss).
- We will get all the certificates and name tags out to our new members next week.

Vice President Report (Donna Lewis): Upcoming Chapter Meeting presenters and other topics. Marsha May is coming to talk to us about toads and frogs in April. She will start looking for a speaker for May.

Secretary Report (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve February minutes. Remember to send Sue Ann items you want to discuss at Chapter Meetings. Mike and Don

Treasurer Report (Michael Conner): We are doing ok, just under \$5,000 in the bank, stable. 42 paid members, which is an increase over the past two years. We decided to end our membership in the Chamber of Commerce for Rockdale and Cameron, as we have not received any benefit.

Committee Reports

Communications: Don Travis. Send Don your email announcements, and send Sue Ann blog articles. We can always use more articles.

Don gets lots of questions with requests for the link to the Zoom meetings. You only have to register once per year, and just use the same link for every meeting.

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.

Award for February 2021:

- 500 hour milestone – Catherine Johnson
- Remember to enter your hours in QUARTER HOURS. 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, etc. Please round up.

- You need to make TWO entries if you attend both the speaker and the chapter meeting, VT and AT.
- Statistics were given. Volunteer hours 238 for February. 58.5 AT.

Class Update: Class: Kathy Lester. Next class would be in 2022. We have not planned it yet, but will do so very soon.

AT and VT: Pamela Neeley and Don Travis.

- Don: Discussion of new AT guidelines for more streamlined approval. All AT has to have question and answer, interactive part. If the state TMN organization sponsors it, we automatically approve it. There are many other organizations also offering webinars. Most are interactive. If you are interested in attending something, find out if it is interactive. If it is, let these people know: Don Travis, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley, and Janice Johnson, each of whom have a role. They will share the information, enter it on the calendar, and share in the email group.

If you have a volunteer opportunity you are interested in, let Don and Lisa know, and they can let you know if it's appropriate and how to report it. We assume that if someone reports hours for a volunteer activity they have actually done the activity.

You are welcome to share other types of things with the group and Don will share it, as general interest.

- Pamela enthusiastically seconds the idea of contacting all four people if you find something you think will be a good fit and doing the research first.
- Please see Don's guidelines at the end of these minutes.

State Representative: Linda Jo Conn –

- WOW award of the month Sue Ann Kendall for yellow-rumped warbler killed by the ice storm.
- Report on Winter Storm Uri Wildlife Deaths project.
- Check weekly email for other activities suggested by Linda Jo.

Old Business:

- none

New Business:

- See AT and VT discussion
- Sam Jolly is putting together houses for bees for Catherine and her group and Girl Scouts. Anyone who is willing to help out can get hours.
- Sam has two tons of rocks for a pathway and a lot of cedar posts. They are free.

Nature Stories:

- Donna: Monarchs have arrived but have nothing to eat. Plants all died.
- Sue Ann saw snow geese.
- Carolyn has tried to feed bees and butterflies but has no takers.
- Pamela has proof of beavers on her property. She has seen three dams and evidence of a trail and holes. She found trees they gnawed, too.
- Check our Larry's bird videos.
- Lisa saw her first yellow-rumped warblers (butter butts), and enjoyed the cedar waxwings in the trees.

Adjourn: Carolyn moved we adjourn, Cindy Travis seconds.

Hours:

Advanced Training Hours for this meeting AT at a Chapter Meeting: 1.5

Volunteer Hours for this meeting VT: Chapter Meeting 1.0



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Setophaga coronata

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/69683660>

Sue Ann Kendall sunasak

**ECR WOW! iNaturalist.org
Observation of the Month Award
February 2021**



Winter Storm Uri Wildlife Deaths

Advanced Training and Volunteer Training Approvals

For all AT webinars and other online Training sessions that are sponsored by the Texas Master Naturalist organization, they are automatically approved by our chapter, whether live or viewing the pre-recorded sessions. If it is one that has not been put out yet, please let Janice Johnson know for the weekly events.

Many other excellent AT sessions by any number of organizations, such as AgriLife, TPWD, or other nature related Texas organizations will require advanced approval before logging them into VMS. Feel free to attend any and all of interest to you regardless of Approvals. As you know, TMN has required approved AT sessions to include interactive time for attendee Q&A, whether this is via direct audio conversations during Zoom or other sessions, or via Chat/Q&A online.

So if you have one you want to get approval for, please do the research to determine that qualification, then submit the request to: Don Travis, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley and Janice Johnson so everyone who needs it will see it. Then whoever of us is first to see it we will note the VMS Opportunity to log with, and reply-all back to the four and the submitter, and include in the next Weekly Events, and be on our website Calendar.

If you see any kind of online webinar, class, YouTube Video, TV program, etc. regardless of AT qualifications that you think would be of general interest, please send to Don for distribution to all and he will note it is personal education only.

For any Volunteer Projects that may not obviously fit one of our existing VMS Opportunity Descriptions, then send to Don and Lisa for review and to see if an update to our VMS Opp document and VMS is needed and appropriate.

Don