

Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Chapter meeting – April 8, 2021, Zoom

Attendees: Connie Anderle, Marian Buegeler, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Michael Conner, Carolyn Henderson, Catherine Johnson, Janice Johnson, Sue Ann Kendall, Kathy Lester, Donna Lewis, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley, John Pruett, Phyllis Shuffield, Debra Sorenson, Kim Summers, Jackie Thornton

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

Marsha May presented tonight's AT talk about toads and frogs of Milam County. She played lots of cool frog and toad sounds.

Chapter Meeting after Presentation

President Report (Sue Ann Kendall):

- Sue Ann will talk about the current guidelines and show them on the TMN website. We will discuss what we prefer to do moving forward with projects, field trips, and such. Decision: outdoor activities are all right, let's wait for month to month to see about meeting in person. We will make a plan!
- Also need to plan next class.

Vice President Report (Donna Lewis): Paul Crump will come later in the year, which is good. She will find someone for May ASAP. Be on the lookout for chicken turtles! They have a yellow stripe rather than red like a slider.

Secretary Report (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve March minutes. Remember to send Sue Ann items you want to discuss at Chapter Meetings. Approve: Donna, Second Mike

Treasurer Report (Michael Conner): Always exciting. Nothing actually happened. Still hovering at \$5,000. We are up to 43 paid members! This is up from the previous two years.

Committee Reports

Communications: Don Travis. Don is out tonight.

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. The chapter website has a link to the calendar that lets you sign in. Thank you, Lisa! Mike recommends putting it in your Google or Microsoft Outlook email.

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 March 2021:

- Recertifications:
 - Cathy Johnson
 - Sue Ann Kendall
 - Donna Lewis
- 31 active volunteers for 917 hours so far this year. Advanced training 172.
- 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.
- Background checks going well. If you haven't, update your profile.

Class Update: Kathy Lester. Next class would be in 2022. The board will meet to work in planning next week. She'd like feedback from the last class's students.

AT and VT: Pamela Neeley. Please check the weekly newsletter.

State Representative: Linda Jo Conn –

- WOW award of the month Marian Buegeler of a scarlet pimpernel blossom.
- Report on upcoming activities, like the City Nature Challenge!
- Check weekly email for other activities suggested by Linda Jo.

Old Business:

- none

New Business:

- Sam Jolly put together houses for bees for Catherine and her group and Girl Scouts.
- Donna brings up Earth Day, April 22. We can't do our usual thing. Cathy and Donna want to meet at the Wildscape to honor Earth Day informally on April 24. We can give out seeds and brochures, and work in the garden, or have a lunch. Cathy can check with the Reks about it.

Nature Stories:

- Pamela found deer scat. She found an opening in the grass where probably a deer was sleeping.
- Lisa wants recommendations for how to get rid of grackles. One idea is recorded owl sounds. Debi suggested shooting a water gun at them.
- Lisa has seen barn swallows harassing the grackles, but the barn swallows go after her, too.
- Suna saw breeding cattle egrets.
- We wonder if we should not be feeding birds because of salmonella. Donna has asked Ann Collins.

Adjourn: Donna moves, Carolyn seconds.

Hours:

Advanced Training Hours for this meeting AT at a Chapter Meeting: 1.25

Volunteer Hours for this meeting VT: Chapter Meeting 1 hour.



Scarlet Pimpernel

Lysimachia arvensis

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/791928>

Marian Buegeler marianmarie

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

ECRTMN "Let's Get Outside!" Belly Botany activity

