

Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter
Board meeting – August 12, 2021, 6:00 pm
Zoom – the usual link



Attendees

Sue Ann Kendall, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Kathy Lester, Donna Lewis, Dorothy Mayer, Lisa Milewski, Eric Neubauer, Pamela Neeley, Phyllis Shuffield, Jackie Thornton, Don Travis

Agenda Items

Call to Order

- Time Quorum reached: 6:02

TPWD COVID Guidelines

- There has been NO change to the official guidelines for meetings, as of Monday. Chapters are encouraged to make the decision that keeps their members the safest.

Hybrid Meetings Past and Future

- Good news: there is going to be a TPWD training on conducting hybrid meetings September 2. Sue Ann will be sure to share the details with everyone working with our Zoom and equipment. That includes Mike and Don.
- Ideas for improvement? Do we continue to try for hybrid meetings when we meet in person? People do like hybrid meetings.
- Other feedback? Donna is going to reach out to find people who are able to do Zoom and hybrid. She is going to talk to a woman at the Post Oak Savannah group.
- When should we resume in-person meetings? Set a date now? Go month by month? Consensus is to wait until numbers go down: until we decide otherwise, Zoom only.

Guidelines for Reporting eBird and iNat Hours

- Discussion: We've received requests for more clarification on the Master Naturalist program's instructions on which of these activities count as volunteer hours and which don't. It has to do with audits of our hours that are more personal and not contributing to the greater nature knowledge/research, etc. for Texas. It does count if you upload them to official groups/projects in iNat, such as herps, rare birds, and 12 or so. There is an **All Texas Nature project** will let you put in anything you observe, and it is an official project.

TMN Tuesdays

- Donna asked for some information about the recordings for TMN Tuesdays. Is anyone having trouble with them? Maybe we can go over accessing them and the Be the Change series.
- You can only get credit for a TMN Tuesday as AT during the calendar month it airs. So, go watch them now if you need more hours. They are considering having more of them, but perhaps not every month.

Group Activities

- Many thanks to Linda Jo for her work with our seasonal BioBlitzes, which DO get counted as VT hours.
- Thanks to Pamela for setting up the Gault Site tour. Should we postpone or wait on that? We will make a decision next month on this.
- Thanks to Catherine Johnson and everyone else who has been helping at the Wildscape Project. This has been a wonderful way for us to get volunteer hours and publicity.
- Do we have any other ideas for Group activities? Any other ways to keep our friendships and love of nature going? Nature Day at Wildscape. Can coordinate with Reks. Master Naturalist booths to talk to people. Perhaps Wednesday mornings in Cameron.

Conference

- The Master Naturalist Conference for this year is hybrid.
- Who is going? Who signed up for hybrid?
- Do we have anything we want to contribute?
- They will be needing people to serve as helpers for the Zoom sessions, so if you're good at that stuff, consider volunteering.

Diversity Committee

- With our class coming up soon, it's time to work on a diversity plan that works for our area. The most recent Be the Change session talked about it. John Pruett and Sue Ann Kendall are the two who have volunteered to be on the committee. We will ask for more folks. When meetings are scheduled, all will be welcome.

-

New Class Update (Kathy Lester)

- Probably evening classes, once a week, on Thursday. January 13 is the first chapter meeting of the year, so the class will start January 20. Ten weeks takes us to the first week of April, which is a period of good weather.
- How many students are expected? (Lisa) It would be a good idea to do in-person VMS training safely, perhaps before their first class. And Don could give a tour of the website. A pre-class on VMS and website?
- Sue Ann needs to get the dang signatures. Update: Lisa will help her with it. They have a plan.

Adjourn: 7pm

Hours:

Volunteer Hours for this meeting: 1