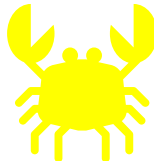


Texas Master Naturalist
El Camino Real Chapter

Chapter meeting – November 11, 2021

Zoom – register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlud-mspzwpH9AJbCwXcSc8sbB1z8GBrOk->
If you have already registered, use the link you were sent.

Attendees: Connie Anderle, Cindy Bolch, Marian Buegeler, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Paul Crump, Carolyn Henderson, Catherine Johnson, Janice Johnson, Sam Jolly, Sue Ann Kendall, Larry Kocian, Liz Lewis, Dorothy Mayer, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley, Eric Neubauer, Phyllis Shuffield, Debra Sorensen, Sheri Sweet, Jackie Thornton, Cindy Travis, Don Travis, Carol Williams



Program: 6:15 pm

Tonight, we have Paul Crump speaking about our friends the herps of Texas. 6:15 – 7:40

Chapter Meeting after Presentation

President Report (Sue Ann Kendall):

- She has a new job and has had trouble scheduling meetings, so we didn't have a Board meeting.
- Thanks to all Chapter members who served in the military.
- Also, thanks to all of you who have been coming up with projects for all of us to volunteer with. We have done a good job moving through the pandemic!
- Update: My sincere apologies for not managing the meeting well enough to get good input on the meetings going forward in 2022. We have a month and a half left to get the planning done, and you will hear from us soon.

Vice President Report (Donna Lewis):

- Not doing anything for next month. We can have a chapter meeting, without a speaker, so Mike Conner suggested a short chapter meeting.
- Today was a joint Master Gardener event. We are going to alternate every month or so sharing meetings with them. People had a great time. 15 members attended.

Secretary Report (Sue Ann Kendall): Approve October minutes. Remember to send Sue Ann items you want to discuss at Chapter Meetings. Donna Lewis moved to approve and Mike Conner seconded.

Treasurer Report (Michael Conner):

- Some dues are in, so we have over \$5,000. 13 dues are already paid for next year.
- Mike found in our mail at AgriLife some old financial records and a shirt. It is men's size Small. He will bring it to the next in-person meeting we have to share.

Committee Reports

Communications: Don Travis. Don has added some new environmental content from people who have asked to have their information added to our site, so do check out that section of the website. 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 until 2022. We will get the information out for the Zoom meetings for the coming year in December.

Blog: Sue Ann Kendall. We get more visitors when we have posts, especially ones that appeal to the public. Also, your likes, comments, and SHARES will make more people see it. Please visit our [Facebook page](#) or the blog to participate! <http://www.ecrmasternaturalists.blog>



The time you spend writing a blog post and taking pictures for it counts as Community Outreach/Indirect! Here are a few stats:

- We had 8 posts in October and 110 so far this year. Thanks! We had 256 visitors last month.
- We've had 4,059 views this year.
- We have 95 followers who get email updates from the blog, up 8 from last month.

Host: Sherry Colley. Items are stored in the Hermit Haus (old church) until we have space.

Membership: Lisa Milewski.

Awards for October 2021:

- Recertifications:
 - None for this month, but many people are very close.

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.

Class Update: Class: Kathy Lester. (not in attendance) Kathy reported via email that we only have one person signed up so far.

AT and VT: Pamela Neeley. Nothing to report.

State Representative: Linda Jo Conn.

- WOW award of the month for October: Marian Buegeler. She joined the "Never Home Alone" project. You can join it, too, to share what you see at your house! Sorry for the typo on Marian's name on the image at the end of the minutes.
- Check the weekly email for other fun activities that will also get you volunteer hours, suggested by Linda Jo. We are grateful for her creativity! See the blog for reports.

Old Business:

- All our items are now stored at the Hermit Haus, the old church where we used to meet. Thanks to Donna for bringing her items over and sorting them.
- Annual meeting report from Carolyn: we had some great photos displayed at the meeting, which Don Travis sent in. And Linda Jo Conn and Eric Neubauer got awards (4,000 and 250 hours respectively)!

New Business:

- Report from Membership committee on progress of the slate of officers to vote on next month. Phyllis Shuffield says the team has a slate:
 - Carolyn Henderson President
 - Liz Lewis Vice President
 - Sue Ann Kendall Secretary
 - Mike Conner Treasurer
- Don Travis noted that the procedure is that the Nominating Committee comes up with officers, then they recruit for the committee chairs. So, if you are tired of your position, don't worry; they will contact you. Interested in a committee role? Let us know.
- In the chapter meeting next month we will accept nominations from the floor and hope everyone can participate. We are aware that the December meeting is usually a holiday party, but we had agreed earlier in the fall to not hold an event, thanks to the COVID numbers in Milam County. Upon further discussion, we have decided that an in-person party not officially associated with the Chapter can be organized by those who want it, but we will keep it separate from the Chapter Meeting, so that people who do not want to be in large crowds can still vote.
- Get agreement on meeting format for 2022 meetings. The County site might make hybrid meetings work better, says Don. We can tell Zoom people that the presentation will work well but it will be hard to participate in the chapter meeting part. We need to work out some logistics. Another option is to stay on Zoom until the other location is available, as proposed by Mike Conner. We are aware some members were unable to voice their support for hybrid meetings.
- Carol Williams has said she will be able to help us figure out how to do the hybrid meetings and that she has some helpful equipment.
- Update: we have received some feedback and questions on this decision, so please look for more email communication on the topic of how and where we will do meetings in 2022. Sue Ann is working with Carolyn Henderson to make a final decision for 2022 to ensure that all members have a say.
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- Carol Williams would like to show us the rainwater harvesting system she has set up. There are two separate systems. We agreed that this is ideal for a field trip and that we will work out a time (Pamela Neeley).

Nature Stories:

- Carolyn has found an American elm in Cameron. Wow. Mike Conner says he has some on his property and is not sure why it is so exciting. We will look into more information about American elms in this area.
- Update: Mike confirms that they have a number of American elms on their property and that the Dutch Elm Disease has not made it to Texas. It does remain an endangered species, however.

Adjourn: Mike Conner moved to adjourn; Phyllis Shuffield seconded. Ended 7:30.

Hours:

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

Volunteer Hours for this meeting VT: Chapter Meeting – 1

These hours were approved by Lisa M.

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary.



Little Brown Skink

Scincella lateralis

Research Grade

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/98675773>

Marian Buegeler marianmarie

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

Marianne has joined the project “Never Home Alone: The Wildlife of Homes”