

El Camino Real Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

January 13, 2022

Monthly Meeting

~~Time: Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own meal. Meeting changed to Zoom only.~~ **6:00 pm.**

~~Place: Cameron Chamber of Commerce, 1st St, Downtown Cameron (next to the AgriLife Extension office). This is a temporary location.~~

Meeting changed to Zoom only.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84314576846?pwd=ZjVzb29LZXNzZW5UdDRQa3NwaUdoZz09>

Attendees: Connie Anderle, Marian Buegeler, Linda Burgess, Linda Jo Conn, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Tom Coos, Donnie Grigg, Carolyn Henderson, Cathy Johnson, Janice Johnson, Sue Ann Kendall, Larry Kocian, Kathy Lester, Donna Lewis, Liz Lewis, Dorothy Mayer, Lisa Milewski, Pamela Neeley, Cindy Rek, Gene Rek, Alan Rudd, Phyllis Shuffield, Debra Sorensen, Sheri Sweet, Jackie Thornton, Cindy Travis, Don Travis

- I. Meeting opened at 6:05
- II. Welcome and discussion of purpose of speakers for this meeting
 - a. Carolyn Henderson says she hopes to get us outside more
- III. TMN Advisor Tim Siegmund will speak about the plans for TMN this year
 - a. From around here
 - b. Has been the chapter advisor since 2010
 - c. Was very active in nature festival
 - d. Private lands program leader for the state of Texas
 - e. Landowner Incentive Program (Houston toad, Golden cheeked warblers, etc.)
 - f. He is a good speaker resource for Liz
- IV. Officers and Directors will share plans for 2022
 - A. President Carolyn Henderson – plans to get outdoors more
 - B. Vice president Liz Lewis –

- a. She will be coordinating the speakers. She wants to get some local speakers as well as others. She is making contacts with them. She should have a tentative list within the month. She has a good person lined up for next month.
 - b. Ideas: Native bees – Catherine Johnson has suggestions, Art Thomas and the Morton brothers from Rockdale. Walker’s Honey Farm is another idea. Linda Jo has a suggestion: Michael Warner.
- C. Secretary Sue Ann Kendall (and Zoom host) –
- a. Her goal is to take good notes and send them out monthly. Also please contribute blog posts to ecrmnsecretary@gmail.com and don’t forget to send in photos!
- D. Treasurer Mike Connor
- a. Around 26 people have paid their dues. They are \$20 each, so if you haven’t paid, please do. You can take a picture of the front and back of your check and email it to Mike.
 - b. We still have around \$5K in the treasury.
 - c. No large expenses planned yet.
 - d. Mike will not handle bitcoin.
 - e. He is willing to try Google Pay or PayPal, but he prefers a check.
 - f. He only gets mail at his PO Box.
- E. Directors
- 1. Membership Lisa Milewski
 - a. Five new students are already in VMS!
 - b. No awards for January, but there are people close to milestones.
 - c. 19 active volunteers with good hours in December.
 - d. This month we already have people doing volunteer work.
 - e. This year’s pin is a lightning whelk, the state seashell.
 - f. TMN Tuesdays count as hours!
 - g. Remember to have a sign-in sheet if you are coordinator of an event, and to enter the information

on the event in VMS. TPWD loves statistics. he coordinator is responsible for adding the statistical data to their entry (or something like that). You need to provide Lisa the sign in sheets, since she has to keep those official records. You can email them to her if that is more convenient (or take a picture and text it).

- h. Our audit went really well this year, which is awesome.
 - i. Don't forget CoCoRaHS. It's a great project, measuring rainfall, but the hours are reported inconsistently. we agreed 4 to 5 hours max (this gives folks 5 to 10 minutes max a day since not everyone has the app on their phones). Folks with multiple rain gauges on different properties/towns are allowed additional hours per rain gauge up to the maximum allowed per property located in a different town and Lisa already knows who those folks are (two to her knowledge).
 - j. Get your hours in within 45 days, and there will be no exceptions. Just do it.
 - k. You can't claim mileage for admin work or AT.
2. Communications Don Travis
- a. He also has COVID.
 - b. Shared information on the website.
3. Student Training Kathy Lester
- a. Class starts on the 20th. Hope to meet in person at the chamber of commerce for now. Since the COVID has gotten worse, there is now a Zoom meeting option for all classes:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82351013955?pwd=WXlwR3pFODExeXN1bEV0SmVtN0I5dz09>
 - b. Whether chapter members can come or not will depend on COVID. Maybe not.
 - c. We currently have 5-6 class members.

4. Advanced Training Pamela Neeley
 - a. She has two forms that have been filled out for proposed activities! They look great! They are from Carolyn and Linda Jo.
 - b. These will appear in our weekly newsletter.
 - c. She plans to sponsor BioBlitzes on different members' land. It's interesting to see the other side of the river.
 - d. Forms are on the website.
5. State Representative Linda Jo Conn (iNaturalist and CoCoRaHS).
 - a. She wants to encourage us to donate money to the Texas Master Naturalist Foundation. You can make memorial contributions.
 - b. Enjoy the beautiful sulfur butterfly photo by Connie Anderle. They are active! It's great to see her on iNaturalist.
 - c. This year's plan is to be a cheerleader of our Chapter.
 - d. CoCoRaHS – a lot of people did not get formally trained. We need training. Be sure you take the funnel and tube out of your gauge out BEFORE a snowstorm.
 - e. The Texas Birding Classic is coming up. You can do this!
6. Volunteer Service Projects Donna Lewis
 - a. Feb 18-21 is great backyard bird count
 - b. TMN Tuesday talked about the welk and rules. Even Donna can do it!
 - c. She plans to find us some outside activities, but she is worried about cold and car pooling.
 - d. Ideas: All Things Wild, Lick Creek, Cameron Zoo, Post Oak Groundwater (shared with Master Gardeners), Paul Crump at the Wildscape, Earth Day April 22.

V. Survey of members

- a. Carolyn H. sent out a survey for ideas for what we can do.

- b. Please send yours in.
- VI. Hostesses Catherine Johnson and Kim Summers
 - a. Thanks to them for volunteering! They will get to work once the in-person meetings start.
- VII. Milano Butterfly Garden
 - a. It is in bad shape and not meeting the requirements for being a monarch way station.
 - b. Please let us know if you are willing to take on the maintenance of this area; otherwise, we will need to remove the signs.
- VIII. Sugarloaf Mountain – Mike Connor
 - a. It's a beautiful local place.
 - b. The owner of the land where it is has agreed to sell 60 acres of the land where it is, finally.
 - c. There would be an organization that will make it open to the public.
 - d. We were asked to support this, and we voted as a Board to do so.
 - e. Hoping we can help out with the fundraising for this. This is a GREAT opportunity!
- IX. Potluck meals vote
 - a. People would like to have them again starting in February.
 - b. Show of hands? Motion passed.
 - c. We hope to have potluck next month at the Episcopal Church.
- X. Other/new business
 - a. First field trip tentatively scheduled for February at Alan Rudd's place on Saturday February 19. Can do carpooling if necessary.
 - b. Tree girdling in Wilson-Ledbetter Park will happen in March on the 12th.
- XI. Let Cathy Johnson know about food needs for class.
- XII. Nature Stories
 - a. Sue Ann has had a belted kingfisher on her property
 - b. Pamela has seen a lot of black vultures
 - c. Sheri S. has seen 40-50 black vultures and caracaras near Lexington. In October her grandson and her found a bug and found at wheel bug.
 - d. Phyllis says there are hundreds of vultures on the water tower by the new county buildings.

Sue Ann Kendall moved to adjourn Phyllis Shuffield seconded it at 8 pm

2 hours VT At a Chapter Meeting

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary



Connie Anderle took this photo of a cloudless sulphur butterfly *Phoebis sennae*, which got her this month's WOW iNaturalist award! <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/103734504>