

# El Camino Real Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

## Monthly Chapter Meeting

March 10, 2022 / All Saints Episcopal Church / 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Pot Luck – Theme was salads

In person and Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82351013955?pwd=WXlwR3pFODExeXN1bEV0SmVtN0I5dz09>

Zoom attendees: Lisa Milewski, Joyce Conner, Gene Rek, Cindy Rek, Jackie Thornton

### I. Welcome / Meeting opening

- A. Please note all the activities going on with Texas Master Naturalist that you can participate in listed at the end of the agenda. You can contribute to scientific studies, learn and record hours. Don sends out notices almost daily and Janice includes them in her weekly newsletter to all members.
- B. Speaker Dr. Jim Richardson, DVM, introduced by Liz Lewis. Started at 6 pm. Recommended the book by Gabe Brown, *Dirt to Soil*. No till disturbs soil much less so that water can soak in and not run off. The less you disturb soil the more it can soak up. Mulch is another thing that helps—leftovers from previous crop and animal impact (kills off some soil to provide nutrients). After you harvest one crop, get another one in there capturing sunlight. Effective rainfall stores water for use during the drought periods. Mulch is what helps the water stay. The more diverse population the better.  
*If you want to make small changes, change the way you do things. If you want to make big changes, change the way you see things.*

Time 1.25 hours

### II. Officers and Directors reports

#### 1. Meeting started at 7:23

#### A. **President** Carolyn Henderson

- a. Tree girdling with Cliff Tyllick from Austin on March 12 at Wilson Ledbetter Park. Please attend if you are free. It will be at 1:30. He will also have some kits available when you are there. They are getting rid of glossy privets to make space for native plants. Visitors are welcome.
- b. Posting hours on TMN site – Importance of getting it correct
  - i. We are basically a “friends of the TPWD.” Through our participation, the state legislature knows people are paying attention and they require reports from TMN.
  - ii. Don’t forget to get your hours in by 45 days after the event.
  - iii. COVID – TMN is following whatever the local mandates are in one’s location. The only difference is if you attend a MN event somewhere other than your chapter. They stress that if you are representing TMN, you must abide by the stated rules of the event sponsors.
- c. If you have been involved in the “Be the Change” project, please complete all surveys by April 6.

- d. If you'd like notifications about state backed activities directly from TMN and AgriLife, go to [tmn@listserve.tamu.edu](mailto:tmn@listserve.tamu.edu) and sign up. Or, just look for Don's emails.
  - B. Vice President Liz Lewis: Next month is Dr. Frank Summers who will speak on snakes and grasses.
  - C. **Treasurer** Mike Connor: The treasury is fine and staying about the same. Don't forget to pay your dues, or Lisa will make you inactive! Pay up! Thanks to the two who did pay.
  - D. **Secretary** Sue Ann Kendall: – approve last month's minutes. Donna Lewis moved to approve; Pamela Neeley seconded.
    - 1. We had 427 visitors to our blog last month.
    - 2. Our Facebook pages average around 60 impressions.
    - 3. Please forward posts to your friends on Facebook and otherwise.
- ii. **Directors**
- 1. **Membership** Lisa Milewski: No awards this month, but many people are close to the yearly accreditation and some milestones. Recertification pins will be available next month! Please see detailed report at end of minutes.
  - 2. **Communications** Don Travis: Nothing much new.  
Don would like to retire from the communications position. It includes managing the public email address, running the website, running the meetings and getting the cameras and stuff up and running. He also manages the email addresses in email with who is in each email list. He will be gone July through September. The job can be broken down into parts.
  - 3. **Student Trainer** Kathy Lester: The schedule is changing often. The Herbarium trip has been canceled. Now on for April 16.
  - 4. **Advanced Training** Pamela Neeley:
    - a. The George Bush Library has re-opened. They have the Texas Sea Grant exhibition, 50 years of science and stewardship. It's about the Texas coast, helping turtles and such.
    - b. There is also an exhibition called Oceans of Plastic by an artist, which is from collected trash. Bush44.org is the website to look at the stuff. Don Hagan is a docent there (former member).
  - 5. **State Rep** Linda Jo Conn: If Master Naturalists are not worried about where their food comes from, they should be (from the conference).
    - a. iNaturalist Award is the dead horned owl found by Pamela Neeley. It got stuffed and is in a drawer. Pamela, Linda Jo, and Anne Collins all got to watch. Dead animals are useful for research. You can take a picture that is not disgusting, then post the others.
    - b. The trip to Jones Prairie in northern Milam County has been postponed.
    - c. Great Texas Wildlife Trail Adopt a Loop. We are part of the Brazos Loop. Two places in Milam County are listed as places on the trail, Apache Pass and Wilson Ledbetter Park. We could nominate other places. She shared some brochures to take home. There is an Adopt a Loop iNaturalist project.
    - d. City Nature Challenge 2022 we are in the Heart of Texas. Competing worldwide! Join it. You can post photos at your own dang house and have it count as hours. It starts April 29.
  - 6. Volunteer Service Projects Donna Lewis:

- a. Monarch Watch is coming up at Lick Creek Nature Center, which has nice trails. March 27, Sunday, 1-4 pm. City of College Station is sponsoring it and dogs are welcome.
- b. Spring Festival is a new thing in downtown Cameron. Perhaps we could have a table. We will ask Melanie Reed. It's on a Friday afternoon.
- c. Earth Day is coming. It is April 22, so we could do something April 23.
- d. We could go visit this place, if someone other than Donna arranges it: See <https://brtc.tamu.edu/> for info.

BRTC is the Biodiversity Research Teaching Collections of TAMU. It is located in the same building as the S. M. Tracy Herbarium off University Drive at College Station. It is a collection of many Animal species, from large to small. All are dead and preserved in some manner.

Linda Jo Conn received a personal invitation from curator Heather Prestridge for our TMN chapter to schedule a visit. She remembers when our chapter used to visit on a regular basis.

7. Hostesses Catherine Johnson and Kim Summers:

- a. Scott is now bringing ice, tea, and water. The themed meals are working well. Please bring your own plates and cups.
- b. The theme for April is Italian.
- c. We have a shelf in the facility that has our stuff in it. If you are a cleanup person, please take the trash to the dumpster and leave the thermostat as you found it.
- d. Wildscape will have a lot of programs from June through September. Nature Days will be in October this year. There will be visits to native plant wholesalers.
- e. There will be something at Colorado Bend State Park in the summer.

**III.** Other business

- 1. A big thank you to Alan Rudd for hosting and running the field trip to his place.
- 2. Open – Board meeting first week of April.
- 3. Adjournment Sue Ann moved to adjourn; Carolyn Henderson seconded.

One hour VT at a Chapter Meeting for the meeting.

Save the Dates –

- 1. Virtual Volunteer Fair May 4 and 5 – the web link is on Janice's weekly email newsletter. If you want to volunteer for TMN projects by individual clubs, this is the place to do it. Site may not be active yet.
- 2. Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Oct. 20 through 23 at the Omni Houston Hotel. When everything is set, TMN will begin sending out all the information including registration.
- 3. The Texas A & M Natural Resources Institute is working on two surveys – one for landowners and one for natural resource users. They are part of the Texas Land Trends program to work on programs to benefit Texas natural resources. If you own land outside the city limits and/or have natural water resources, go to <http://txlandtrends.org> to learn more. They have links for both surveys.

## ECR Chapter Meeting Addendum Thursday, March 10, 2022

Membership Report by Lisa Milewski:

### **Awards:**

None this month but many are half way to recertification or nearing milestones

### **Statistical Information:**

#### February 2022

VE – 324.5

AT – 117.25

Initial Training – 34

27 Volunteers

#### Year to Date (January 1 – March 6, 2022)

VE – 671

AT – 172

Initial Training – 90

35 Volunteers

#### Cumulative (January 1, 2008 – March 6, 2022)

VE – 57,771.77

AT – 8,001.75

Initial Training - 876.5

51 Volunteers

### **Reminders:**

2022 Dues - \$20.00 (Due January 1<sup>st</sup> each year) – last reminder before moved to inactive status

Enter hours within 45 Days

Enter hours rounded up to nearest quarter hour

15 minutes – 0.25

30 minutes – 0.5

45 minutes – 0.75

Please be clear in the description of your AT (title of AT & speaker name) and in your VE (describe what you did and location of the event to include place & city)