

El Camino Real Texas Master Naturalist Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2022, 5:30 pm

All Saints Episcopal Church meeting room

Zoom Attendees: Marian Buegeler Joyce Conner, Jan Jatzlau, Janice Johnson, Larry Kocian, Michelle Lopez

- I. Welcome
 - a. Guest Mary Ann Melton – Goodwater Chapter
 - b. Guest: Patricia Coombs, Catherine Johnson’s sister.
- II. Speaker: Dr. Frank Summers, who is an old friend of Liz Lewis.
Topic: Collateral Damage – how losing one species affects others, especially us.
1.25 hours AT
- III. **Meeting started 7:30 pm**
- IV. Volunteer hours
 - a. CoCoRAHs – 15 minutes per day. This has been debated all over the state. Texas Master Naturalist program says that 15 is the maximum. You don’t have to do it in 15 minutes. Sandra D. disagrees with the five hour maximum.
 - b. Attending events that have not been approved for hours:
 - i. Fill out form that is on the website, then send it to Pamela Neeley.
 - ii. When approved, send to Lisa Milewski.
 - iii. Items sponsored by our sponsors are automatically approved.
 - iv. Copy of the form was sent via email. Please look at it and save it. You can also find it [on the website](#).
 - v. Member contact information is [on the website](#)
- V. Class graduation is tentatively set for Thursday April 28 at 6:30 pm. The planning committee is Catherine Johnson, Kathy Lester, and Pamela Neeley. That will be either at Apache Pass or the Central Avenue Bistro. Members will need to pay.
- VI. There is a May Day picnic Saturday, April 30 in the square in Cameron. Two spaces (31 and 32 on Main Street, near the food trucks) are reserved for us to show what we do. Please sign up for two hours or more. This is aimed at children. If you have something of a “natural order,” go ahead and bring it in. We will need our pamphlets, which Sue Ann apparently has. Community Outreach Indirect. Pamela is bringing tables, but we need more.
- VII. We are making progress on volunteers to take over the Communications Director’s duties. You may be asked to volunteer to do one of the jobs or to be an alternate. We are looking for two people per job, so they can alternate duties. We do need a #1 person for hooking up the equipment for speakers.
- VIII. Board members and Director reports:
 - a. Vice President, Liz Lewis: Next month is Dr. Karen Bell. She is married to the tree girdling guy. She will be speaking on archeology of this area.
 - b. Treasurer, Mike Connor: We have about \$5900 in the bank, but we will be paying a lot of bills from the class. This will be great. We have 37 people who have paid their dues. There was a list of those who have paid on a table in the meeting room for people to peruse.

- c. Secretary, Sue Ann Kendall: Alan Rudd moved to approve the minutes as amended. Sandra Dworaczyk seconded. Motion passed.
- d. Membership, Lisa Milewski
 - i. Distribution of pins: woo hoo hoo. Many photos were taken.
 - ii. Other news will be attached as an addendum.
- e. Communications, Don Travis: The members-only area has a [member photo directory](#). This will help you identify new people if you're a long-time member, or more seasoned members if you are new. You do need to know the password: BirdsAreCoolDudes. There are six new additions, our class.

Update on Sam Jolly: He had a brain tumor that recurred last year and had more treatments and a second surgery. He passed away on Tuesday morning April 12, 2022. Don will look into information on services and somewhere to donate in his memory. We will add a blog post with some memories and some of his photos.

- f. Student Trainer, Kathy Lester: not present
- g. AT Coordinator, Pamela Neeley: The children's librarian would really like for someone to read something with children at the library (who are accompanied by their parents). July 25 is still open. It's at 10 am. Sandra Dworaczyk volunteered to help, and Victoria StJohn volunteered to assist.
- h. State Representative, Linda Jo Conn: Sam Jolly was a great nature photographer and many of them are on iNaturalist. Please look at them. He is jollyphoto on iNaturalist.

Linda Jo is a member of the Great Texas Birding Classic, which you can do by yourself or in a group. She will get as many species as she can and put them on eBird. For this you had to pay to enter, so the data goes into the right project.

The City Nature Challenge is at the end of the month (April 29, 30, May 1 and May 2) then there is a week to identify. We are the Heart of Texas group. It is with iNaturalist. All you have to do is observe! You don't have to sign up.

She is happy that new student Donnie is now an iNat person and welcomes him.

WOW Award: Victoria St. John Collins, a student. Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. She was already on iNaturalist before she joined our class.

- IX. New Business
 - a. Dorothy Mayer brought Mexican tea, Mexican cilantro, some kind of seed, to share.
- X. Adjourn 8:15 pm. Sue Ann Kendall moved to adjourn, Liz Lewis and others seconded. Motion passed.

.75 VT at a Chapter Meeting for the meeting
1.25 AT for the presentation.