

El Camino Real Texas Master Naturalist

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 12, 2022 * 5:30 P.M

All Saints Episcopal Church

Zoom participants: Sue Ann Kendall, Larry Kocian

- I. Welcome
 - A. Meal at 5:30. Theme is sandwiches.
 - B. Meeting begins at 6
- II. Speaker Dr. Karen Bell. Topic is archeology.

Speaker began: 6:02 – Bell did her research on women rulers in Mesoamerica during the Aztec times.

Speaker ended 7:15
- III. Meeting Started at 7:25

Successful booth at May Day Picnic in Cameron – 15 people went and it worked out very well. We did great.

People loved the worms and turtles.
- IV. City Nature Challenge 2022: Heart of Texas kudos
- V. Linda Jo Conn identified 590 things. She was 4 out of 181 (that number was upped from 177 the other day). Ann Collins was 6th, Carolyn Henderson was 10th, Marian was Buegeler was 12th, Victoria 14th, Jackie Thornton, Sue Ann Kenall, and Michelle Lopez were in the top 26/181. Dorothy Mayer was 9th..
- VI. Graduation party kudos
 - a. Thank you to the team who organized it.
- VII. Board members and Directors reports
 - A. Vice-president Liz Lewis

Next month will be a teaching meeting. Lisa is going to give an update on how to enter hours.
 - B. Treasurer Mike Connor
 - a. We have over \$5K in money and one bill to pay. We are very consistent over the years. However, we are not bringing in more than we are spending so if we have any big expenses, we will start to reduce our reserves. So, if anybody have any fundraising ideas it would be great to pursue them.
 - b. 38 people have paid their dues. We are down from 2021, but up from 2020 and 2019.
 - c. He got a receipt for a gift card but does not know who it was from. Kathy Lester said it was from her.
 - d. There is a list of everybody that have paid their dues on the sign-in table if you don't know if you have paid.
 - C. Secretary Sue Ann Kendall
 - a. Approve Minutes Dorothy Mayer moved to approve and Sandra D seconded.

- b. Sue Ann suggested we get a computer and a microphone – the Owl system needs to be returned.
- c. Don Travis provided some information. We don't need an Owl but we do need a more modern group laptop.
- d. Price will be less than a thousand dollars.
- e. Will discuss it at the next board meeting online.
- f. Linda Jo noted that side conversations affect people's ability to hear and is not great for the speaker, either. This is whether in person or online.

D. Membership Lisa Milewski

- a. Four recertifications
 - i. Marian Buegeler
 - ii. Joyce Conner
 - iii. Pamela Neeley
 - iv. Debra Sorensen
- b. Photo to come
- c. Hours limits and such: be descriptive. Make sure you have the right date. To change categories, delete it and re-enter it. Do your hours in 15 minute increments.
- d. If you have questions on this stuff, bring your questions or email them to Lisa before next month's meeting.
- e. **See attached member ship report for more details**



E. Communications Don Travis

- a. Already talked about need for computer
- b. Something good happened and people clapped. The following people have volunteered to take over some of Don's duties:
- c. Chapter presentation equipment setup, management and storage - Donald Grigg and Linda Jo Conn. Our first attempt tonight went well other than usual "old" pc

problems. The two Donalds put together our new storage cabinet in our new storage room in the Office building.

- d. Website updates and management - Cindy Bolch and Michelle Lopez. Don has had initial walkthrough sessions with both, identified things upcoming that need attention, and plans a 3-way get together soon to go through several of them.
 - e. Managing our "Shared Gmail Contacts" will be Mike Conner. We had discussion at the meeting on this, and Don will be sending him ID/Password for getting started, with directions and support.
 - f. We are all grateful for the volunteers.
- F. Student Trainer Kathy Lester
- a. It's all over!
- G. AT Coordinator Pamela Neeley
- a. Nothing
- H. State Rep Linda Jo Conn
- a. Butterfly memorial garden has been fixed up and looks better. Scott Berger and his mother cleaned up the overgrowth.
 - b. She has a certificate for the people who participated in the City Nature Challenge. Ann Collins, Dorothy Mayer, , Carolyn Henderson, Marian Buegeler, Jackie Thornton, Sue Ann Kendall, Michelle Lopez.
 - c. She commended Dorothy Mayer for figuring out how to use iNaturalist and got 80 observations correctly. It clicked!
- I. Hostess Catherine Johnson – skipped to the end
- a. We are on YouTube in a video, thanks to the Reks.
 - b. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality gives Environmental Excellence Awards every year in different categories. Last night was the end of their convention in Austin. Gene wore a suit and Cindy was blinged out. She will have a blog and pictures of the event.
 - c. Members of our group were there including Catherine and Tim Siegmund. It's on YouTube now!
 - d. Agriculture winner was Bird and Bee Farm. Yay. They showed the video. It featured members of our Chapter!
 - e. Link to video: <https://youtu.be/R8UH5IHh09w>

VIII. New business

- A. Shirts If you want one let Carolyn know in the next week.
 - a. More than one color (blue or green or gray)
 - b. Long sleeves
- B. Open
 - a. Joyce Conner. El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association, Rancheria Grande Chapter. Joyce is the current Chair, and Dr. John Pruett is the past Chair. Both are members of our Texas Master Naturalist El Camino Real Chapter. We are partners with them.

- b. b. National Trail Day is June 4. She passed around handouts. Dr. Pruett is going to show his video about the trail at the Lucy Hill Patterson Library in Rockdale. It is on Friday, June 3, from 2-3:30pm.
- c. c. Also, there is a movement to buy and protect Sugarloaf Mountain. Through his contacts, Dave Cunningham reports that a Texas A&M Landscape Architect class used Sugarloaf as a project and have come up with a draft of a future design for the site. Their design shows a 60-acre area that includes a camping area, restrooms, and trails. (Joyce would like to see a nature center there.) There is a lot of work yet to go into it.
- d. d. In addition, two families are working to open up a public restricted-access trail through the Conner and Baumann properties to the Rancheria Grande. Federal Park Designers visited the proposed trail and the families will be receiving their draft designs and recommendations in late Fall. The families have already protected the valley from turning it into a reservoir and having the trail and listing of historical artifacts there may help protect it in the future.
- e. Joyce has posters about the talk for anyone who wishes to publicize it at their business or other location.
- f. Linda Jo suggests that we should all go to the meeting and wear our outfits. She hopes that we approve AT for it.
- g. Carolyn would like us to be able to walk through the Conners' property in the fall.

IX. Adjourn –

- a. Chapter Meeting, Administrative Work, Chapter Meeting - 1.5
- b. AT at Chapter Meeting - Archeology by Dr. Karen Bell - 1.25
- c. And, if applicable: Administrative Work, Hospitality (if brought food or drink) - 1.00

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary



What is it?

ECR Chapter Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2022

Membership Report by Lisa Milewski:

Awards:

Recertifications:

Marian Buegeler

Joyce Conner

Pamela Neeley

Debra Sorenson

Statistical Information:

April 2022

VS – 655

AT – 91

Volunteers - 33

Year to Date (January 1 – May 9, 2022)

VS – 1,912
AT – 395
Volunteers 36

Cumulative (January 1, 2008 – May 9, 2022)

VS – 56,589
AT – 7,631
Volunteers 46

Reminders:

1. Enter hours within 45 Days
2. Enter hours rounded up to nearest quarter hour
 - 15 minutes – 0.25
 - 30 minutes – 0.5
 - 45 minutes – 0.75
1. Please be clear in the description of your AT (title of AT & speaker name) and in your VS (describe what you did and location of the event to include place & city)
2. Mileage is **NOT** allowed for advanced training (AT) and administrative work