

El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist

Regular Meeting October 13, 2022 5:30 P.M.

All Saints Episcopal Church

Zoom attendees: Joyce Conner and Larry Kocian

- I. Welcome
 - A. Pot luck meal 5:30. Theme is soup. People enjoyed it.

 - B. Speaker Mary Ann Melton, longtime Master Naturalist. Topic is “The Music of the Night” 6:15- 7 pm
She played sounds for us to guess what they were. There were frogs, toads, mammals, and owls.

- II. Meeting 7:15
 - A. Carpooling to the TMN Annual Meeting in Houston?
Everyone is set and knows where to meet.

 - B. Head count for those who will be going to the Balcones Canyonland National Wildlife Refuge with Guide Chris Harper on October 29. Chris is from Rockdale and teaches a class for our trainees. He needs the count. Remember you may bring family and/or friends.
Please let Carolyn know if you change your mind and plan to attend. It is about five miles, but there are loops and places to rest. There are many other things to see there. Meet at our normal meeting place in downtown Cameron. We will leave at 7:30am; arrive at 7:20 am to carpool.

 - C. Nominations for significant service to the chapter to be announced at the December party. Carolyn Henderson has received two, both of whom really deserve it. All nominations need to be received by **November 1**.

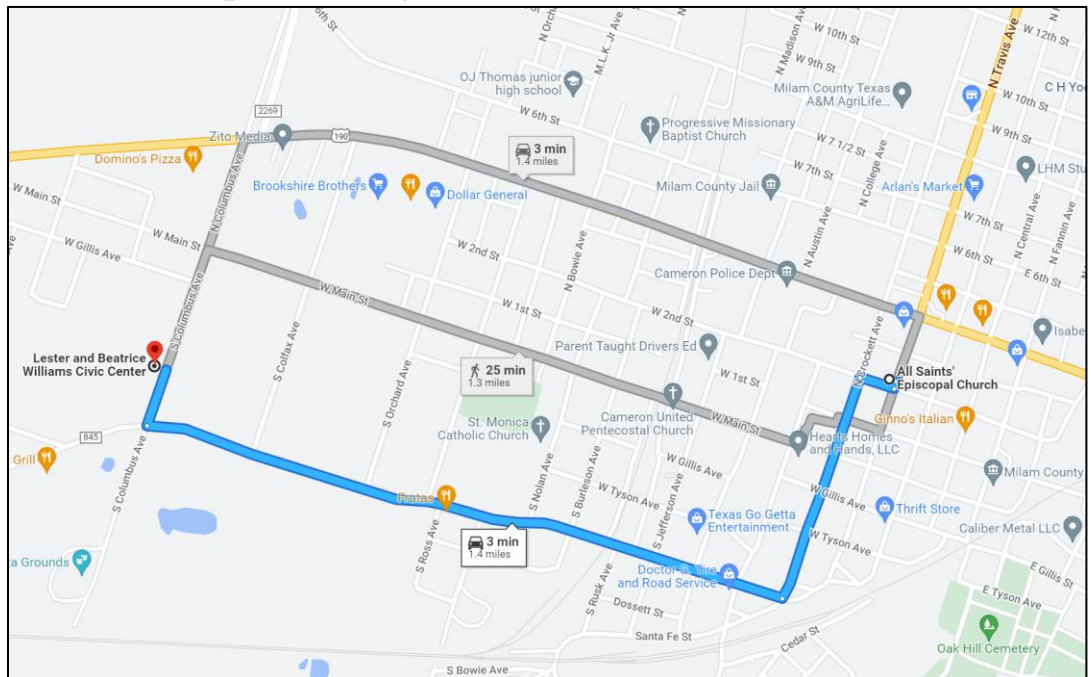
 - D. December Party Meeting – menu, head count at November meeting, cost. The menu is prime rib, pork tenderloin and turkey,

with all trimmings provided by Thorndale Meat Market. Please bring your own wine if you want it. Tea and coffee provided. Cost will be \$25. Bring checks to the November meeting. It will start at 6 pm at the Bea and Lester Williams Civic Center/Milam Community Theater building on December 9.

Looking for volunteers to decorate a table by November 1.

We will do the white elephant exchange.

Below is a map showing where the building is in relationship to where our Chapter Meetings are held.



III. Board and department reports

Liz Lewis, VP; Alan Rudd will speak next month. Then comes the holiday party.

Mike Connor, Treasurer; Treasury \$3583 now, because we spent more than usual this year, some of which are non-recurring. We are only \$400 over budget right now. We will raise dues to \$30 next year, which will make up the money easily. We voted to approve this last month, following Chapter procedures.

Bring your dues check to the November meeting or email/text photos of the front and back of your check against a dark background. No Bitcoin, please.

Sue Ann Kendall, secretary; Approve the minutes from the last meeting. Move to approve: Kim Summers; second: Sandra

Dworaczyk. Motion passed.

The Chapter blog is doing well and getting at least 400 visitors per month. Please contribute!

[Lisa Milewski](#), membership; Victoria Everett received her initial certification, Sharon Sweet and Janice Johnson received their recertification. We got photos of Liz Lewis and Mike Conner from last month, as well.

[Don Travis](#), communications; Don asked if we like the volume of email he passes on. People said yes.

[Pamela Neeley](#), AT coordinator; No news.

[Donna Lewis](#), project coordinator; No news.

[Kathy Lester](#), student training coordinator (Alan Rudd because Kathy is in Iceland); there are 28 people on the potential student list. Note that not all will actually sign up.

[Linda Jo Conn](#), state rep, cheerleader and Wow Award. She and Eric Neubauer went to do a BioBlitz on a preserve near Oklahoma. Linda Jo went to Hidden Springs Preserve last weekend. It was very hidden. They even had to hide their observations. There are good reasons for this, to protect the land and equipment.

She hopes to see people at the Annual Meeting next week. The 2022 Texas Pollinator BioBlitz has been going on for a week and we are contributing well. Don't forget that plants count in the BioBlitz, too. Project Feeder Watch is a Cornell Lab of Ornithology project that starts November 1 using eBird to report counts. For two days you count the max number of birds of each species observed and report those amounts. Then you wait at least five days and make the next count. See feederwatch.org for information.

Sue Ann went to the Bennett Trust conference last weekend and recommended it.

WOW award was about roseate spoonbills. Sue Ann has seen the only two observations in Milam County, so she got this month's award.

Donna Lewis recommends Journey North, an app to track migration that is easy to do.

IV. Old business

Let Carolyn know if you're going to the Balcones Canyonland.

Bring dues next month (\$30).

Let Catherine Johnson know the five plants that did best in your land and ones who didn't.

V. New Business

Nature reports: Lots of dragonflies and fireflies right now. Lots of scissortails, as well.

VI. Adjourn Victoria Everett moved to adjourn; Alan Rudd seconded.

1 hour AT for Mary Ann's talk, .5 VT for the meeting

Don't forget to claim an hour of hospitality for bringing food to the meeting, if you did so.

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary, October 17, 2022

