

El Camino Real Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

Monthly Meeting

November 10, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church

- I. Welcome/eat
- II. Speaker Alan Rudd
 - Topic "Stones and Bones" started at 6 pm, ended 6:50
 - We learned that fish have ear stones, or otoliths. They have growth rings called annuli. See [the blog post by Sue Ann](#) for more details and photos.
- III. Meeting started 7:02: Carolyn Henderson
 - a. Informal question: Do you want to continue potlucks before the meetings in 2023? Most people raised their hands. Two nays.
- IV. December Year-end Party
 - A. Attendance sign-up list was available, and people signed up. Side dishes that are vegetarian will be available. Bring your own desserts and wine, though we will get some cool special Texas wines donated. If you were not at the meeting, please send Carolyn Henderson an email and let her know. You will need to send your \$25 to Mike Conner at the address below.
 - B. There will be a white elephant gift exchange. Bring one if you want to participate.
 - C. It starts at 6 pm. Wear cocktail attire. At least wear shoes and something to cover your body.
 - D. Volunteer for table decorations by contacting Carolyn.
- V. We need a volunteer to run computer and audio visual equipment during monthly meetings. Donnie can no longer do it. This is the part where you set the speaker up to show their presentation on the screen. We could use more helpers! If you don't volunteer, Carolyn will start calling.
- VI. Suggestions for field trips in 2023 - Please contact Donna Lewis or Carolyn Henderson.
- VII. Suggestions for speakers at monthly meetings - Please contact Liz Lewis. Ensure that they don't overlap with the training class speakers.
- VIII. Dues - \$30 Pay Mike Conner in person, by text, or by mail. Phone number is 512-740-8702. Mailing address is PO Box 8, Gause, TX 77857. If texting a check, include front and back with space around edges. Make check to ECRTMN.
- IX. Pine Gate Renewables (solar farm company) has a request for guidance on planting around Solar Farm. They'd like to plant native plants around the solar farm to make it pretty. The meeting will be on November 28, time to be determined. The solar farms will be near Alcoa and near where the Travis and Sorenson families live or near Buckholts. Tim Sigmund is interested in it, too.

- X. Governing Documents adoption process – please read the new chapter bylaws, chapter management and operation protocols, and chapter operating handbook revisions here: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>.

All new documents, and the COH drafts as changes are made, are posted on our website library page <https://txmn.org/elcamino/library/bylaws-chapter-guidelines-handbook/>

We will vote on acceptance in December. Carolyn states: I have read them, and I do not see any conflicts. There are a few things that can be altered per chapter, but not most things. If you see conflicts, let me know ASAP so the board can review it and submit for chapter revision to TMN.

XI. Officers and directors

A. VP Liz Lewis

No speaker in December. She is working on the schedule for next year.

B. Secretary Sue Ann Kendall

- We reach around 800 people per month on our blog and more on our Facebook page.
- Motion to accept October minutes: Phyllis Shuffield moved, Sandra Dworaczyk seconded, and the motion passed.
- Should we do Zoom for the next year? After discussion of pros and cons, we decided that we will not have regular Zoom meetings in 2023. However, we are keeping the account so that we have the option to do all-Zoom meetings or committee meetings by Zoom.

C. Treasurer Mike Connor

- Our bank balance has recovered, and we got a donation from Eric Neubauer, for which we are very grateful. We are going to be ahead of last year after the dues go in.

D. Mike has a list of people that have paid their dues and/or party fee on the table by the sign-in sheet. No Bitcoins accepted, but e-payments by sending a photo of your check are still accepted.

E. Communications Don Travis

Nothing not already covered.

F. Membership Lisa Milewski

Milestones:

Phyllis Shuffield - 2022 Recertification

Marian Buegeler - 250 Hours Milestone

Remember to enter your hours correctly!

G. AT Coordinator Pamela Neeley

Not in attendance. She sent over the Class of 2022 remembrances, which were lovely trinket holders.

H. Student Training Kathy Lester

The class has 11 people strongly interested, though no one has paid. There may be one speaker who wants to be remote. Three field trips are planned. Remember that members are welcome at the classes, but not all at once.

I. State Representative Linda Jo Conn

- Linda Jo got a Moth Week certificate, even though there weren't many moths.
- CoCoRaHS certificates were sent out, too. Thanks to all who participate in this program of tracking rainfall. Talk to Linda Jo if you're interested in it.
- iNaturalist doesn't care where you do your observations. Things you see on your property matter to research.
- WOW Award: Sue Ann Kendall, Herb of Grace and participation in [NPSOT Wild Plants of Texas BioBlitz](#)

J. Hospitality Catherine Johnson

Nothing to share

XII. Old business
none

XIII. New business

- Donna Lewis: Earth Day is on a Saturday. Could people help Donna Lewis out? Maybe we could do it at the church here and try to get more people to come to it. It's April 22. Publicity is important.
- Victoria Everett: 9-12 Friday, January 6 is the next First Friday Coffee in Rockdale at the library. Can anyone help? Need cookies and such.
- Alan Rudd would like to thank Donny for helping with the Zoom and the A/V work! Everyone agreed.
- Gene Rek: Donna and Kenny Strong are our guests tonight. We met them at Nature Days.

XIV. Adjourn

Kim Summers moved to adjourn; Victoria Everett seconded. Meeting ended 7:45.

1 hour presentation

.75 for meeting

1 hour for bringing food



Herb-of-Grace *Bacopa monnieri*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/139459514>

Research

Sue Ann Kendall sunasak

ECR WOW! iNaturalist.org

Observation of the Month Award October 2022

AND

**12th in Number of Observations & 8th in Number of Species in the
Wild Plants of Texas – NPSOT Challenge BioBlitz 2022**