

El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist

End of year meeting Minutes

Dec. 14, 2023

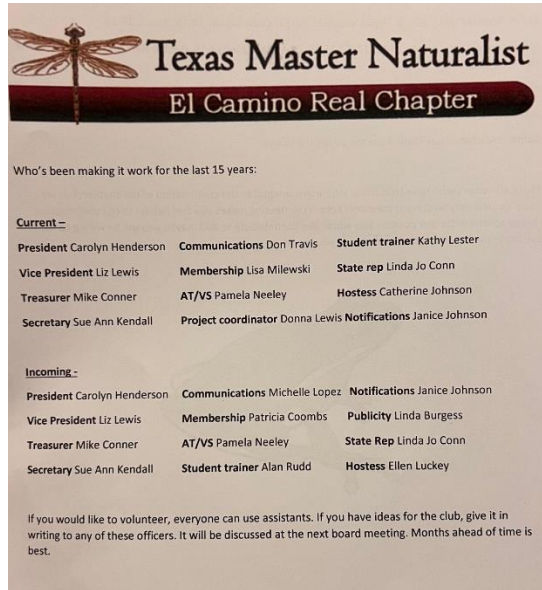
6 p.m. The Studio on Railfan

- I. Welcome
 - A. Dinner – catered by Hot Corners Catering – we appreciate their hard work on this delicious meal. We also appreciate the charcuterie appetizers.
 - B. Donations for All Saints Episcopal Church were collected to give in addition to our usual \$400 donation, in thanks for their hospitality.
- II. End of year reports
 - A. President Carolyn Henderson – see attached President’s Report.
 - B. Vice President Liz Lewis – thanked all members for the suggestions for speakers at future meetings. January is unclear so far, because there are so many options.
 - C. Treasurer Mike Conner – see attached President’s Report.
 - D. Secretary Sue Ann Kendall – thanked all proofreaders. Forgot to approve November minutes. Will do so in January.
 - E. Communications Don Travis – Don thanked the people who are taking over for him as he retires from this position. He noted that Michelle Lopez was already doing a great job with the AV work and will do a great job maintaining the website, Janice Johnson sends out wonderful weekly notices, Sue Ann Kendall maintains our blog and Facebook page, and Linda Burgess is starting to do publicity work.
 - F. Membership Lisa Milewski - Lisa thanked Patricia Coombs, who is taking over for her, and gave a final redout of our very impressive volunteer stats and membership numbers. We recertified 36 people this year, which is the best in a long time. Please see attached membership reports for details.
 - G. AT/VS approval Pamela Neeley – Noted that the forms you need to fill out for event and AT approval were in the folder handed out to everyone in the meeting.
 - H. Project Coordinator Donna Lewis – thanked everyone for helping her out and let us know we will have another purple martin event this year.
 - I. Student Trainer Alan Rudd – publicity for next class starts next month.
 - J. State rep Linda Jo Conn – encouraged each member who used iNaturalist to observe one new form of life per month next year. She presented the WOW award for iNaturalist participation to Sue Ann Kendall, who did well in the 2023 Pollinator BioBlitz in October (fourth in number of observations and fifth in number of species out of nearly 6,000 observers).

- K. Hostess Catherine Johnson – thanked Ellen Luckey for taking over her position for next year so that she can concentrate on other projects.
- L. Weekly Notifications Janice Johnson – reminded us to send things in to her, as we are doing now.

III. Awards

- A. New officers welcome (image below)



- B. Recognition of outgoing officers
 - a. Certificates were given to outgoing officers.
- C. Other awards
 1. Officers and directors recognition pins were awarded to people who have served as officers in the past or are currently officers. Pins were a variety of mostly birds.
 2. Special projects for ECR and/or TMN. People who the committee consisting of President and Student Trainer deemed to have done exemplary volunteer work on special projects received pins as well.

IV. White Elephant gift exchange – members checked gifts in with Debra Sorenson and received your number to take their turn. It was fun.

V. A little fellowship to wrap up the year.



President's End of Year Report

I want to thank all of you for joining Master Naturalist and continuing to support the El Camino Real chapter. We have had a successful year.

Our active membership is up by 5 new students – all of whom have been fully certified.

Our bank balance is currently at \$7,177.14 (per Mike) but somewhere between \$500 and \$600 will go to pay for this party. That leaves us approximately \$6,600 to work with in the coming year.

Part of that is from some very generous donations from several members. Patricia Coombs has made several donations to the chapter by buying things we needed. We're still working on a cordless microphone to go with the new karaoke machine Connie Anderle donated to help with acoustics in the meeting room.

Jackie Thornton donated \$100 for the native plant garden we are working on at the meeting place. She made the donation in honor of two members we recently lost – Edward Dworaczky and Sherry Colley. They will be missed.

Eric Neubauer also made a very nice donation to the chapter. He prefers to keep the amount to himself and the treasurer.

We received \$18.27 from Amazon. That program is no longer being used by Amazon. And last but not least, members donated \$25 for hospitality in September. That buys plates etc. If you don't want to cook, \$5 helps.

We are taking donations today to give to the All Saints Episcopal Church as thanks for the many times we are now using their facilities. We give them \$400 a year, but I Don't think that covers all the electricity/heat we use.

All officer and director positions have been filled for the coming two years. Almost all of them could use an assistant. Please pick one and volunteer your time. That is what we are all about – volunteering to spread the word about conservation of Texas' native species.

ECR Chapter Meeting Thursday, December 14, 2023

Membership Report by Lisa Milewski:

Awards:

Recertifications:

Scott Berger
Phyllis Shuffield

Milestones:

Michelle Lopez – 250 Hours
Cindy Rek – 250 Hours
Gene Rek – 250 Hours

End of Year Statistical Information:

November 2023

VS – 376
AT – 35
Volunteers - 45

Year to Date (January 1 – December 11, 2023)

VS – 5,470
AT – 1,129
Volunteers 45

Cumulative (January 1, 2008 – December 11, 2023)

VS – 60,638
AT – 8,813
Volunteers 49

Reminders:

1. Membership Dues (\$30.00) for 2024 due by January 1, 2024 to Mike Conner, Treasurer (members not current in dues are not eligible for awards and will be moved in VMS to inactive status until current in dues)
2. "Edit My Profile" to sign off on waivers and authorization for background check – this is done annually in December. If you forgot how to do this, please email me and I will send you instructions

ECR TXMN Awards

2023

<p>January 12, 2023 <i>Initial Certification</i> Linda Burgess Donnie Grigg</p> <p>2023 Recertification Linda Jo Conn</p> <p>2022 Recertification Dorothy Mayer Kim Summers</p> <p>Milestone Lisa Milewski – 1000 Hours</p> <p>February 9, 2023 No awards this month</p> <p>March 9, 2023 2023 Recertification Donna Lewis Michelle Lopez</p> <p>April 13, 2023 2023 Recertification Connie Anderle Ann Collins Joyce Conner Mike Conner Sandra Dworaczyk Carolyn Henderson Catherine Johnson Sue Ann Kendall Kathy Lester Lisa Milewski Jackie Thornton</p> <p>Milestone Larry Kocian – 500 Hours Jackie Thornton – 500 Hours</p>	<p>April 26, 2023 <i>New Student Graduation</i> Patricia Coombs Brenda Ferris Ellen Luckey Michelle Pierce Neil Wettstein</p> <p><i>Initial Certification</i> Patricia Coombs Ellen Luckey</p> <p>May 11, 2023 2023 Recertification Marian Buegeler Debbi Harris Dorothy Mayer Alan Rudd Shari Sweet</p> <p>June 8, 2023 2023 Recertification Patricia Coombs (double certification) Janice Johnson Debra Sorenson</p> <p>July 13, 2023 2023 Recertification Ellen Luckey (double certification) Pamela Neeley Cindy Rek (double certification) Gene Rek (double certification)</p> <p><i>Initial Certification</i> Neil Wettstein</p> <p>August 10, 2023 2023 Recertification Eric Neubauer Randy Robinson</p>
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September 14, 2023

2023 Recertification

Linda Burgess
Don Travis

October 19, 2023

2023 Recertification

Victoria Everett StJohn

Milestone

Carolyn Henderson – 500 Hours

November 9, 2023

2023 Recertification

Cindy Bolch
Liz Lewis
Kim Summers

Milestone

Sue Ann Kendall – 1000
Eric Neubauer – 1000

December 14, 2023

2023 Recertification

Scott Berger
Phyllis Shuffield

Milestone

Michelle Lopez – 250 Hours
Cindy Rek – 250 Hours
Gene Rek – 250 Hours