

El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024 5:30 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church

- I. Welcome
 - A. Pot luck 5:30 Theme – Mexican food
 - B. Introduced guests
 - a. Jason Jenkins, who attended the coffee presentation at the Rockdale Library that our chapter organized
 - b. Josh Evans. County Extension Agent (sponsor of our chapter)
 - c. Isabella and Rose Radtke, who are new part-time residents, brought by Melanie Reed
 - d. Simon Dutton from the Brazos Valley chapter, who helps Dale Kruse in his grass class (Dale was also in attendance)
 - C. Speaker – Karin Patzke, PhD (niece of Katherine Bedrich).
 - a. She talked about “forest forensics” and visual literacy and gave examples about how you can find signs of earlier homesteads in second-growth forests. Her examples were in the Finger Lakes region of central New York,

- II. How to share ideas for speakers/programs and projects/field trips:
 - A. Speakers/programs – provide the speaker or program leader’s name and contact information. If sending it by email, send it to Liz Lewis. You can also hand her the information on paper in person or mail it to them. Addresses are on the members-only area in our website.

 - B. Projects/field trips – provide the location, contact person, and their contact information. If sending it by email, send it to Carolyn Henderson. You can also hand her the information on paper in person or mail it to them. Addresses are on the members-only area in our website.

- C. Project sponsor – fill out the form for approval, and submit it to Pamela Neeley in person or via email. At the project event, you're in charge of the sign-in sheet. (If you were at December party – you have both of those forms in the folder you received.)
 - 1. If a project is ongoing, the approval form is not needed.
 - 2. A sign-in sheet is needed for each event in a project.

III. Board members and directors

A. Liz Lewis, Vice President: upcoming speakers:

- a. February: Paul Crump
- b. March: Mike Mitchell
- c. April: Tim Siegmund

B. Mike Conner, Treasurer:

- a. He was present to take dues in person.
- b. There was a list of those who have paid; people who thought they'd paid worked it out with Mike.
- c. If you paid by sending Mike an image of your check or send your dues in the postal mail and didn't receive confirmation that he received it, please check with him.
- d. There is \$7,000 in the treasury, which will be lower when he is able to locate the invoice for the December meeting expenses.

C. Sue Ann Kendall, Secretary:

- a. December 2023 minutes are approved. Sandra Dworaczyk moved to approve, and Victoria Everett seconded. Motion passed.
- b. There have been few blog posts in January. Please send in your interesting tidbits; otherwise, Sue Ann will write more, and she'd prefer to share content from our members.

D. Michelle Lopez, Communications

- a. Out with COVID. Our thoughts are with her.

E. Patricia Coombs, Membership

- a. Please visit your profile and update the information for background checks. This needs to be done yearly.

- b. People who have not paid their dues will not be able to report hours for 2024.
- c. New timber rattlesnake pins for this year have been ordered.

F. Pamela Neeley, AT/VS Manager: no report.

G. Alan Rudd, Student Trainer/Recruiter

- a. The Friday coffee event in Rockdale was our first recruiting event for next year. In the future he'll bring along some materials to share.
- b. We are all welcome to recruit new people and send the information to Alan.
- c. Debi Sorensen will be the assistant to Alan for the next class.

H. Linda Burgess, Publicity

- a. Let Linda know if you have any publicity-worthy items to submit to the newspaper or other media outlets.

I. Linda Jo Conn, State Representative

- a. iNaturalist WOW Award went to Carolyn Henderson for finding the beautiful Birds-eye speedwell blooming.
- b. She noted that it's important to let people know you appreciate them NOW when they will realize it. Hugs to Linda Jo.

J. Ellen Luckey, Hostess

- a. Also out with COVID.
- b. Linda Burgess reported that the food was great and that next month's theme is Asian food.

K. Janice Johnson, Weekly Notifications Coordinator

- a. Make sure events you send her for the announcements have been approved via the process outlined above.

IV. Old business

- a. Alan Rudd passed out chapter pins to members who were not at the December meeting. Mike Conner received an armadillo and Debbie Harris received an owl.

V. New business

- a. Dale Kruse asked whether the grass class attendees wanted to have class on Tuesday or not, considering the weather is forecasted to be inclement. Members agreed to postpone until Tuesday, January 30.
- b. Cindy Travis had her hip replaced yesterday. She is recovering well. Don is “nursing” her.
- c. Debbie Harris proposed to do an order of shirts with the TMN logo and our chapter name embroidered on them. There are many different styles and colors available, and you can even provide your own shirt. Details were provided via email by Carolyn Henderson. Orders are due January 16, and you can pay Debbie when the shirts are finished.
- d. Catherine Johnson provided information on upcoming events at the Wildscape for winter and spring. There will be speakers on various nature topics and craft activities to go with them. The audience will be limited to people who can sit for twenty minutes to listen to a speaker. Speakers will be drawn from members of our chapter and topics will be relevant to Milam County.
- e. Donna Lewis requested that you put out suet feeders for birds during the cold spell. They are available inexpensively at Tractor Supply.
- f. Neil Wettstein mentioned that Brett Eberhard at KMIL is retiring, and that the station had done publicity for us in the past.

VI. Adjourn

- a. Program 1 hour AT at a Chapter Meeting
- b. Meeting .75 VT Chapter Meeting
- c. Hospitality 1 hour VT

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary