

ECRTMN Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024 5:30 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church

- I. Welcome
 - A. Welcome – potluck theme is Italian.
 - B. Guest: Margie Dunkel
 - C. Speaker – Eric Neubauer – Identification of *Hogna antelucana* versus *Hogna incognita* – note that the *H. incognita* is now officially recognized as a separate species. Kudos to Eric!

- II. President's report
 - A. Spring Fling – March 22 – 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Cameron at the Venue.
 - a. Volunteers signed up at the meeting for two shifts. Please bring nature items you think would be of interest to children and other visitors.
 - b. VT hours will be available for participating, setting up, and tearing down.

 - B. Solar Eclipse gathering on Monday, April 8 at 10:30 am. 3847 North US Highway 77, Rockdale (Jackie Thornton's place). Pink letters "JT" will help you identify the location.
 1. There will be hot dogs served before the eclipse. Please bring a side dish to share (1 hour VT for bringing a dish). Also bring beverages other than water that you want.
 2. Eclipse will begin around 12:15 pm, with totality around 1:30pm.
 3. Crafts and games will happen after you arrive, including some artistic glassware activity supervised by Pamela Neeley.
 4. The event will happen regardless of weather.
 5. Yes, there is a bathroom

- III. Board members and directors review
 - A. Vice President, Liz Lewis: upcoming speakers:
 - a. April: Tim Siegmund
 - b. May: Mike Mitchell
 - c. June: TBA
 - d. July: Bill Runyan (CoCoRahS)
 - e. August: Amanda Fowler

- B. Treasurer, Mike Conner: not in attendance nor did he send a report. We spent \$250 on brochures, so the treasury should be the same minus that.
- C. Secretary, Sue Ann Kendall:
 - a. No minutes, as Sue Ann missed last month and no notes were taken.
 - b. We have over 1.2K Facebook followers. We are getting multiple followers every day, and she is not sure why.
 - c. Some GREAT blogs in the past month. Thanks to all who sent them in and to those who volunteered to send more soon.
- D. Michelle Lopez, Communications: not in attendance due to injury.
 - 1. New password for members' only area – it involves skunks. Carolyn will send it out to everyone.
- E. Patricia Coombs, Membership: not in attendance due to illness.
 - a. Joyce Conner has attained 4,000 volunteer hours. Congratulations on this huge milestone, Joyce!
- F. Pamela Neeley, AT/VS manager:
 - a. Mentioned that Sue Ann recently led Cub Scouts on a nature walk and filled out all the proper paperwork and got the appropriate approvals ahead of time. Gold Star.
 - b. Sue Ann gushed about how rewarding the nature walk was and what a successful outreach it was for the chapter. We hope to find more opportunities like this.
- G. Alan Rudd, Student Trainer:
 - a. Spring Fling will be a great outreach opportunity, so let's talk it up!
 - b. He will be bringing folding tables for the event.
- H. Linda Jo Conn, state liaison: not in attendance due to car trouble.
- I. Linda Burgess, Publicity: newspaper outreach is going well.
- J. Ellen Luckey, Hostess:
 - a. Next month's theme is fish and seafood. Maybe Alan will make his famous hush puppies or more...
 - b. She hopes to arrange for a cookout with a campfire during the cooler weather.
- K. Janice Johnson, Weekly Notifications: not in attendance. She is faithfully providing our weekly notices, which are so helpful to us.

- IV. Old business: to be honest, it was hard to distinguish between old and new business, so they are all listed here.
- a. Ann Collins: the Bird Station project at the Wildscape/Bird and Bee Farm has been re-initiated. Please contact Ann to see how you can help.
 - b. We had a card to sign for Donna Lewis, who is recovering from back surgery.
 - c. Catherine Johnson:
 - i. There will be a full moon walk party at midsummer at the Wildscape. More information to come.
 - ii. In April there will be a trip to Washington on the Brazos. It will include a picnic and a visit to the Rose Emporium and perhaps other things. The date will not be April 20, so it will be some other Saturday, depending on the schedule of the person who is leading the tour of the site. There will be opportunities to observe many kinds of nature as well as to learn about Texas history.

V. New business

VI. Motion to adjourn: Sue Ann Kendall moved with multiple seconds.

1 hour Advanced Training for Eric's presentation

.75 hours Volunteer Time for the meeting.

1 hour VT for Hospitality if you contributed to the food.

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary