

Texas Master Naturalist – El Camino Real Chapter

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 11, 2024 5:30 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church

- I. Welcome
 - A. Pot Luck – “family favs”
 - B. Speaker – Bill Runyan of CoCoRaHS – a great volunteer activity for those interested – he made it clear that we need to follow the instructions for scientific accuracy and suggested everyone take the training at least twice a year. He noted that the \$60+ new official rain gauges have bird spikes on top, handles, and markings to give you an idea of how many inches had fallen.

- II. President’s report
 - A. Sign up for the annual meeting will begin the first week of August (August 1).

 - B. The board voted to contribute \$100 to the Wildscape to prepare for the upcoming activity in August. Catherine Johnson shared her thanks and sent an announcement that there is a work day there on Saturday, July 20 starting at 9 am.

 - C. Four members of the chapter did a presentation on butterflies at the day camp of 4H. We were asked to do by Micah Holcomb. It went very well.

 - D. Phyllis is organizing a PR table set up at the POSGWD presentation on Thursday, July 18 in Caldwell. Several (at least six) have volunteered to help out. Thank you.

- III. Board members and directors
 - A. Vice President, Liz Lewis: Next month’s speaker is Amanda Fowler of TXDoT, who will talk about roadside plants.

 - B. Treasurer, Mike Conner: Not present. Reported we have \$6,130.69 in the bank account, and are up to 41 paid members.

 - C. Secretary, Sue Ann Kendall: Thanked Carolyn Henderson for taking minutes last month. Linda Jo Conn volunteered to take minutes for August, since Sue

Ann will be out of town again. There have been 12 blog posts since June 1!
Keep up the good work, members.

- D. Communications, Michelle Lopez: All is well in communications world.
 - E. Membership, Patricia Coombs:
 - a. She showed us the beautiful pins, letters, and certificates Joyce Conner earned by achieving 4,000 hours of volunteer work.
 - b. Janice Johnson received her 1,000 hours of volunteer time awards this past month. Congratulations!
 - F. VMS/AT Manager, Pamela Neeley: There was a discussion of how to make taking CoCoRaHS training count as advanced training. We would need to watch it as a group and have discussion afterward. We will plan this for an upcoming meeting.
 - G. Student Trainer, Alan Rudd: He wondered if anyone is available to set up a recruiting table at upcoming TPWD events, but no one was able to be there.
 - H. State Liaison, Linda Jo Conn:
 - a. Clint Walker of the honey farm saw one of the interesting fungi Ann Collins recently found, which may be the first recorded sighting in Bell County.
 - b. WOW award went to Debra Sorenson's picture of a garden spider.
 - I. Publicity, Linda Burgess: She notes that our announcements are not always making it into the local newspapers, especially Rockdale. However, they appear in the Chamber of Commerce email messages and are on the radio stations.
 - J. Hostess, Ellen Luckey: the theme for next month's potluck is finger foods and appetizers. Everyone applauded her dewberry and other fruit cobbler, which was fantastic.
 - K. Notifications, Janice Johnson: not present
- IV. Old business: none
- V. New Business:
- a. Neil Wettstein reported that there are activities happening for the 150th anniversary of Rockdale and that they are being announced on KMIL.
 - b. Neil also asked after Donna Lewis, and the report was that she is better, but still working toward her recovery.

- VI. Adjourn
Speaker 1.5 hours AT
Meeting .5 VT at a Chapter Meeting
Hospitality 1 hour if you brought food

Quote: You can't take nature out of history.

