

Hays County Master Naturalist



July 24, 2003 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Extension Office and preceded by a covered dish supper. There were eight people present.

PROGRAM: Vice President Winifred Simon introduced the presenters Paul and Georgean Kyle of the Driftwood Wildlife Association who provided interesting information about Chimney Swifts. They have been interested in chimney swifts for twenty years and have hand raised 1500 chimney swift nestlings after their nests were destroyed.

Chimney swift numbers are declining due to loss of habitat. They cannot perch on horizontal objects and build their nests only in enclosed spaces with vertical walls. Swifts are solitary nesters and will build only one nest in each structure. Their food source is insects that are ¼" or less in size. Think mosquitoes!

The Kyles have created the Chimney Swift Nest Site Research Project which publishes a newsletter and supports a web site through the Driftwood Wildlife Association <http://www.concentric.net/~Dwa>. The mailing address is 1206 West 38th, Suite 1105, Austin, TX 78705.

The program ended with slides of various chimney swift nesting towers the Kyles have created and modifications that could be made of other structures to provide places for swifts to nest.

Advanced Training: 1 hour

BUSINESS MEETING: There was no business meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Betty Watkins, Secretary