**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the January 3, 2017 Meeting @ River Bend Nature Center**

Meeting was called to order by Chapter Vice-President Kay Murphy at 7:02pm with 25 members and one guest, Keith Gauthier in attendance. Debra Halter reported that Terry McKee (Chapter President) was now at home after a hospital stay.

**Officer Reports:**

Lynn Seman said that the December minutes were e-mailed out to members. Larry Snyder made a motion accepting them as reported and several other members seconded the motion.

Larry Snyder read off the treasurer report with $3,522.29 in the account. (See attached report)

Kay Murphy accepted his report, and there were no objections.

**Committee Reports/ Old Business**

Larry Snyder mentioned that the Home and Garden tickets were available at $6 each. If you work a booth, you will still need a ticket. Member dues are $15 for a single and $25 for a pair.

Maryruth Prose stated that she and Warren King audited the treasurer’s report for 2016. She stated that the records were in perfect condition with praise to Larry for a job well done.

Larry Snyder mentioned the TQI report (quail study) that he completed and sent out to all the members recently. Great job, Larry! Jane McGough also mentioned that Larry put together a letter that was sent out about continuing the quail study to several people of importance. We will wait to hear the outcome.

Debra Halter mentioned the First Day Hike turned out great. Penny Miller mentioned that some of the people never had been to Lake Arrowhead State Park before, but showed up for the hike. Keith Gauthier, Park Superintendant, said that there were 70 participants that completed 164.5 miles of hiking which is the most miles walked during this event at LASP. Jane McGough mentioned that there were quite a few children at the event which was encouraging.

Kim Mason mentioned that people can still contribute articles for the Times Record News. The article should be about 700 words and can be a description of anything relating to being a Master Naturalist. She said thanks to those who wrote articles in the past. She mentioned that the paper was doing a better job of “laying out” the articles with the photos.

Paula Savage mentioned that anyone can also send an article for the newsletter.

Lynn Seman reported on the Quail Dissection Project at Kirby Jr. High. 109 students were impacted by the project. Members who were involved were pointed out to the group. Students took a pre-test and post test and did better after the project. The students wrote thank you cards for the members and the teacher, Laura Cason, sent a gift to give to the members.

**New Business –**

January 14 – Bird Walk at 8:00am at Lake Arrowhead State Park. Penny Miller usually heads the walk, but will not be able to be there and will have someone fill in for her.

February 17-20 will be the Great Backyard Bird Count - Penny Miller discussed how you may be able to go in your backyard and do a 15 minutes count each day of the count to report the birds that you see. On February 19, there will be a group count held at Wild Bird Rescue starting at 7:30am. Penny said this will last about 1 to 1.5 hours. This is a national program that takes place each year. Jane McGough mentioned that there is a PowerPoint presentation on their website that explains the program and that we might go through it at a meeting in future.

Jane McGough reported on the plans for the Home and Garden Show booth. This takes place on February 25 and 26. Jane explained that this year there will be two areas – one for adults to learn about the Texas Master Naturalist Program and one for the kids to do a “hands on” project. Some of the projects may involve crafts that will need toilet paper rolls, biodegradable egg cartons, and used crayons. Keith Gauthier mentioned the use of the parks “trunks” as a possibility. Jane said that we will be educating the public not really selling anything. We will be in a joint area with the Texas Master Gardeners, our group, and the Kemp Center. She mentioned that this year’s show will need many volunteers. Tami Davis mentioned that we will need two sign up sheets – one for the kiosk and one for the children activities. Again, we will need VOLUNTEERS.

Kay Murphy mentioned that the new training classes will begin in March. If you know anyone that would be interested, contact a board member. The training will cost $100. Dian Hoehne is in charge of publicity for this event. Larry mentioned that an article should be written for the paper. Tami Davis mentioned that a flyer could be made up to send out for prospective members. Larry commented that Ray Hyde and Dian Hoehne did a great job on the TV sites last year. Way to go Ray and Dian!

Re-Certification pin was awarded to Norman Mason and Kay Murphy. Initial certification pin was awarded to Joy Parsons. Pete Peterson was presented his official nametag. Mary Webber also recertified, but not present. Debra Halter was awarded her 250 hour pin. Congratulations to all!

Judy Snyder thanked everyone for the cards and thoughts after the recent loss of her mother.

**Program** - Keith Gauthier – Lake Arrowhead State Park - .50 hour of AT

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Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

January 3, 2017