

Rolling Plains Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

Monthly Meeting
September 6, 2022

7 pm Bolin Science Hall, Room 209, MSU and via Zoom

President Laura Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting agenda, previous month's meeting minutes, and financial reports were presented to the members via email before the meeting.

Welcome Guests & Introduction

Monarch tagging training and OE monitoring. Lynn Seman and Laura Gillis presented information about the monarch watch program and demonstrated how to tag monarchs. Members interested in participating were issued tags. Monarch migration is dependent weather factors. If the monarchs are migrating through North Texas members will have an opportunity to tag monarchs during the monthly hike.

Members attending: Sandy Underwood, Kevin Seager, Jim Masuoka, Becky Trammell, Carl Brown, Ian Milunas, Rebecca Milunas, Jennifer Mitchell, Janet Oliver, Tiffany Herring, Joy Pameus (sp), Terry McKee, Debra Halter, , Jane McGough, Jennifer Mitchell, Lisa Winkles, Cedar Sanderson, Jason Young, Linda Price, John Price, Barb Price, Penny Miller, Kevin Scanlan, Janie Scanlan Stephen Conner, Alex Nelson.

Via Zoom: Ricky Linex, Betty Bowles, Cindy Huckoby, Kim Mason, Norm Mason, Sharon Hyde, Paula Savage, Bonnie Stamford.

Meeting Minutes & Financial Report

August meeting minutes were presented and accepted unanimously. The financial report was presented and accepted unanimously.

Old Business

Officers and Chapter Volunteers for 2023

Volunteer Hours Keeper—Debra Halter is the primary, Lynn Seman is the alternate.

Scrapbook/historian—Becky Trammel

Hike Committee Chair—Tiffany Herring

Elections 2023-2025

Officer slate will be presented at the November meeting.

Open positions: president

Kevin Seager volunteered to run as treasurer

November Chapter Meeting — “Resource Share.” Members are invited to share their favorite resource, i.e., best book, app, website, reference guide, inspiring article, etc. Submit your resource recommendation to Alex Nelson by Oct. 24.

New Business

Chapter Project: Sikes Lake Clean Up, Saturday, September 10, at 9am, meet at the white building. RPC will make this an annual volunteer event.

Butterfly program at Region 9 Educational Center—volunteers needed to help with the event. September 26 -28, from 9:00 to 12:00. The program is for 1st through 3rd grade students. Contact Lisa Taylor at nothingbbblueskz@gmail.com.

December Chapter meeting—Christmas Party: Coffee, Cookies and Christmas
Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00pm, Letter Carriers Hall.

Potluck Dessert (no meal). Members bring a favorite dessert to share.

There will be a photo and art contest for members. Entries must be from an RPC event/outing.
Matching donations will benefit River Bend Nature Center.

Completion Certifications: (12) Stephen Connor, Ian Milunas, Rebecca Milunas, Jennifer Mitchell, Janet Oliver, James Price, Barbra Price, Kevin Scanlan, Janice Scanlan, Kevin Segar, Lisa Winkles, Jason Young.

Recertification: Sandy Underwood, Barbara Bowles, Penny Miller

Updates from TMN state offices

TMN Tuesday September 13, 10:00am –Note earlier time.

John Nielsen-Gammon, “Summer 2022: what happened and why.”

Annual Meeting 2022: October 21-23, Houston, TX. Registration is open. Agenda and fees are available on the TMN website. **Virtual registration is open now.**

Deadline for competition entries is September 30 for all photo, art, project fairs, and video contests. Lynn Seman is attending in person. The chapter agreed to grant Lynn with the travel stipends.

Annual Meeting Silent Auction—if you have a donation for the Annual Meeting Silent Auction, please contact Lynn. She can transport donations to the Annual Meeting.

Chapter photos for TMN Annual Meeting—RPC can send 10 photos for the annual meeting presentation of RPC members in action. Lynn will submit photos on behalf of RPC. Members can send 1-2 photos to Lynn for consideration.

Committee and Project Reports

Hike Committee:

Monthly hike is an evening hike September 24 at the Wichita Lake Chat Trail. RPC will be tagging monarchs (if they are migrating through the area). Time to be determined, but it will be in the late afternoon or early evening.

Horned Lizard Monitoring: October is the last month of monitoring. Copper Breaks has been a great location and the park lets the public participate. Lynn will determine the next date based on weather conditions for optimal observations.

Water Testing: Carl Brown volunteered to lead the water monitoring sites in Wichita Falls. Lynn Seman is monitoring CSAC and is working to set up a testing site on the Little Wichita River.

Reminders

Monthly Hikes: EVENING HIKE. Monarch tagging. Saturday, September 24, Lake Wichita Chat Trail. Watch announcement for specific meeting time. Generally, we will meet between 6 and 7pm. Don't wear bug spray if you are tagging monarchs.

Monthly Bird Walk: September 13 at LASP, 8 AM. Meet at the dump station.

Partner Updates and Volunteer Opportunities

The board committee has met with several partner organizations to reacquaint programs and opportunities. The chapter will also consider partnering with WF Rail Trail.

River Bend Nature Center– Hired a new education director who is in training for the children’s programming. **October 28th**-- Not So Scary Halloween at RBNC. Volunteers needed, you can wear costumers, too. 6:00 to 9:00 is the event, volunteers arrive at 5:30.

Midwestern State University– US Geological Society is conducting demonstrations for how water is measured.

Whiteside Museum– Opened the new Lindgren Hall for Ichthyology.

Comanche Springs– help with trail map and pollinator garden maintenance.

Copper Breaks State Park–Monarch tagging and horned lizard survey event pending.

Wild Bird Rescue–new director hired. Volunteers are always needed.

Comanche Springs—Pollinator Garden needs work; trail map project will begin soon, thank you to Becky Trammell who helped Christena complete the description manual for plants located at the park.

Lake Arrowhead State Park—bird outing with Penny, Saturday, September 10 at 8 am. One more horned lizard survey pending. RPC will be participating in the Christmas in the Park event we have 2 booth spots reserved, December 3, evening event.

More Opportunities of Interest

Check the calendar on the state TMN and RPC’s websites for upcoming opportunities or events of interest. If you find anything you are interested in attending, let us know and the board can approve requests and inform other members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
DeAnna Bullock
Secretary

Next meeting: October 4th at MSU Bolin Science Hall at 7pm and Zoom.

October Program: TBD

Volunteer/Advanced training for this meeting: 1 hrs AT for presentation; .75 hrs for chapter administration.