

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Rolling Plains Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

March 7, 2023

7:00 pm, Bolin Science Hall, Midwestern State University, AND via Zoom

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

Welcome Guests and Introductions

The chapter welcomed guests, Phillip and Tiffany Butche.

Members attending: Laura Gillis, Alex Nelson, Carl Brown, Judy Snyder, Larry Snyder, Melissa Rose, Debra Halter, Terry McKee, Stephen Conner, Jim Masuoka, Linda Price, James Price, Barb Price, Judy Maness, Tiffany Herring, Jason Young, Janice Scanlan, Kevin Scanlan, Lynn Seman, Stephanie Frick, Garrett Frick, Joy Parsons, Magaly Rincón, Kevin Seager, DeAnna Bullock; and guests Phillip and Tiffany Butche.

Via Zoom: Lisa Winkles, Cedar Sanderson, Aaron Holland, Warner and Sue King, Jane McGough, Paula Savage, Cindy Huckabee, Bonnie Strickland.

Meeting Minutes & Financial Report

February meeting minutes and financial reports were presented prior to the meeting via email. Minutes and financial reports were accepted by consensus.

March Program

The March program featured three RPC members, each presenting on different topics. Alex Nelson gave an informative presentation on native grasses and how to identify them in the wild. DeAnna Bullock introduced and presented the pollinator and prairie garden project at the Library of Graham, which is a new partner of RPC.

Kevin Scanlin presented his bird observations since installing a Blink bird camera in his backyard.

Old Business

Reminder: Please pay your dues to Kevin Seager ASAP - \$15 individual, \$25 for a couple

Reports

Field Trip with Dr Estes—members of RPC traveled to Norman, Oklahoma on March 5 for a guided tour of the natural history museum and herbarium. Those attending said it was a once in a lifetime private tour.

Permian Fest—Lynn Seman reported that the inaugural Permian Fest was a huge success and that the RPC members volunteering were essential to the event's success.

Home & Garden Show—RPC members volunteered and recruited new training class members for this year's class.

Red River Regional Science and Engineering Fair—Lynn Seman led the RPC committee and helped select the honorees at the science fair. The chapter presented each honoree with a nature-themed book appropriate for their age and a certificate.

New Business

Morningside Butterfly Garden, Wichita Falls—Phillip and Tiffany Butche have adopted a traffic island through the City of Wichita Falls in the Morningside neighborhood. The pair asked RPC members to assist with establishing the garden. An email with details will go out to the members interested in volunteering.

Certifications & Awards

Certifications: Barbara Price, James Price, and Jason Young

Milestones: Joy Parsons achieved 500 of volunteer service.

Updates from State Office

TMN Tuesdays, March 14, 2023. Register through State Website

Topic: Texas Waters Specialist Program

Region 9 Conference: TMN Booth June 6 from 9am - 4pm

(Set Up: June 5, 4-6pm or June 6, 7-8am)

Committee & Project Reports

Hike Committee—the committee will meet briefly after the chapter meeting to plan the next hike.

Partner Updates & Reports

River Bend Nature Center

March 15, Spring Break Camp: program for camp on endangered animals of Texas.

Please contact Lynn Seman

Midwestern State University

Whiteside Museum

Comanche Springs

March 13, 8:30 am to noon. Water testing and pollinator garden work for the month.

Contact Lynn Seman for details.

March 28, Station leader and hike with students from Chillicothe High School.

Volunteers needed! (more details to come)

Lake Arrowhead State Park

March 18, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. TMN table and volunteers for Bass Casting Game

Contact Ranger L at LASP

Copper Breaks State Park

May 27, Special event at the park - booths, and more. Save the date. The event is still in planning stages). Texas Parks is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the organization.

Wild Bird Rescue

Library of Graham Pollinator Garden

April 7, 9am to Noon, plant the garden with the Girl Scouts and plant the garden. Contact DeAnna Bullock for details. Date could change based on construction and weather.

Opportunities of interest

Check the calendar on the website for events and links to sign up.

Next Meeting

April 4, 2023, at 7:00 pm at MSU Bolin Science Hall, Room 209 and on Zoom
Program: TBA

Farewell to RPC Advisor, Robert Mauk. Robert is retiring from Texas Parks and Wildlife. He served as the RPC Master Naturalists Chapter for 12 years. He will be missed. The executive board is actively recruiting a new chapter advisor. **Thank you, Robert.**

Training Class AT opportunities

There are 5 training classes that can be counted as AT for members attending: Botany, Ecology, Paleontology, Texas Laws and Ethics and conservation, and Copper Breaks Wildflower Walk.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
DeAnna Bullock, Secretary

VT Hours: .5

AT Hours: 1.75