

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Rolling Plains Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

April 4, 2023

7:00 pm, Bolin Science Hall, Room 209, MSU AND via Zoom

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

### **Welcome Guests and Introductions**

Members attending: Kevin Seager, Carl Brown, Laura Clepper, Larry Snyder, Judy Snyder, Melissa Rose, Jason Young, Ian Milunas, Rebecca Milunas, Barb Price, Jim Price, Ray Hyde, Sharon Hyde, Lynn Seman, Jim Masuoka, Alex Nelson, Betty Bowles, Joy Parsons, Judy Maness, Terry McKee, Debra Halter.

Via Zoom: Tiffany Herring, Becky Trammell, Bonnie Strickland, Lisa Taylor, Cindy Huckabee, Cedar Sanderson, Warren King, Sue King, DeAnna Bullock.

### **Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports**

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

### **April Program**

The April program was presented by RPC member, Debra Halter. Debra gave an overview of iNaturalist, how to use it and ways to participate in citizen science projects with the iNat app. She demonstrated how to use the iNat smartphone app and iNat website to make and record observations. Debra gave an overview of the City Nature Challenge 2023 and how to use iNat for the project. City Nature Challenge 2023 goes from April 28 through May 1. Observations can be recorded in any of the 10-county RPC region.

### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

With Robert Mauk's retirement from Texas Parks and Wildlife, RPC needs a new chapter advisor. Ranger Laura "L" Clepper, TPWD Interpretive Ranger at Lake Arrowhead State Park has approval from TPWD supervisors to become the new RPC advisor. After a discussion with the members attending live and via zoom, Laura Clepper was approved by consensus to be the new advisor for the Rolling Plains Chapter TMN.

#### **Certifications and Awards**

Initial certification: Kevin Scanlan, Bonnie Strickland

Recertifications: Warren & Sue King, Lynn Seman, Barbara & Jim Price, Bonnie Strickland, Carl Brown, Debra Halter, Sharon and Ray Hyde

#### **Training Class Updates**

These classes and field trip CAN count for Advanced Training for Members

April 13 - General Botany w/ Dr Timothy Pegg

April 20 - Ecological concepts w/ Dr Kashif Mahmud

April 29 - FIELD TRIP - Wildflowers at Copper Breaks State Park

May 18 - Paleontology w/Dr Steven Roscoe

May 25 - Texas Law, Ethics & Wildlife Conservation

w/ Dillan Conley, TPWD Game Warden

## **Coming in April**

April 22 - Earth Day

April 28 through May 1 - City Nature Challenge

May 2 through 7 - City Nature Challenge Identification Period

## **Updates from State Office**

TMN Tuesdays April 11, 2023. Register through State Website

Topic: Conservation of Insects

Storytelling Project for the 25th Anniversary

See State TMN website "25th Anniversary" Tab.

Write or video your favorite TMN story and upload it through the website.

State Meeting October 12-15, 2023, McAllen, Texas

The agenda will be posted in July. Registration opens in August.

Lodging links are open NOW. There are five hotels w/rooms blocked for TMN (prices range from \$100-\$139 and some are offering the same rate for three days pre and post event).

See the State TMN Website for more information, contest deadlines and links.

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

Volunteer opportunities. Set up on June 5, 4-6pm or June 6, 7-8am)

## **Committee & Project Reports**

Hike Committee: Tiffany Herring

April 29, Wildflowers/Seed Gathering at Copper Breaks State Park

(Also, a field trip for the training class)

## **Partner Updates & Reports**

River Bend Nature Center:

Midwestern State University:

Whiteside Museum:

Comanche Springs: Lynn Seman

Report on water testing and pollinator garden work for the month.

Report on day with Chillicothe School kids

Lake Arrowhead State Park:

Report on Family fun day March 18

Copper Breaks State Park:

May 27, Special event at the park - save the date. This is still in the planning stages.

Wild Bird Rescue:

Library of Graham Pollinator and Prairie Garden: first planting on April 7 from 10am to 12pm

Bring hand tools, shovel, rake, or anything else that might be useful. Contact DeAnna Bullock for more information.

**Opportunities of interest**

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

**Next Meeting**

May 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm at MSU Bolin Science Hall, Room 209 and on Zoom  
Program: Photography with Ashlee and Ben Jacobi

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
DeAnna Bullock, Secretary

VT Hours: .75 hrs  
AT Hours: .75 hrs