**Texas Master Naturalist ~ Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the October 4, 2016 Meeting @ River Bend Nature Center**

Meeting was called to order by Chapter President Terry McKee at 19:03 with 24 members in attendance.

**Officer Reports:**

The September meeting minutes were approved as written and emailed to the membership. No objections or additions. Chapter Treasurer, Larry, reported a balance of $3,646.65 in the bank.

**Committee Reports/Old Business**

Lynn Seman reported on the possible opportunity to do a horned lizard survey on land here in the Wichita Falls, area. A lady with 4 acres of overgrown land is available for the study and has recently been found two young lizards on the property. Lynn talked to TPWD representative, Nathan Rains, about what forms will be needed. She updated the group on how the survey may have changed some since the last survey held. The new surveys are focusing on “relocation” of horned lizards because they have completed the DNA studies. Lynn also talked about two other opportunities to Volunteer listed below.

Terry reminded everyone to turn in the Monarch tagging forms to Laura Gillis. All forms have to be turned in before December. Terry talked about the Monarch tagging and how many members were able to educate interested people who were walking by during the tagging.

Sikes Lake Clean up on September 10 went very well. Betty Bowles reported 36 MSU students in her group who showed up to help out. Larry mentioned sending a photo the First National Bank of the group. There was discussion about how the rain brought more trash into the Lake in the next few days, unfortunately.

Terry reported that the Bio-Blitz at Lake Arrowhead State Park on October 1 went well. There were many observations made as well as the discovery of owl pellets. The group had a fun time!

**Volunteer Opportunities**

October 8 – Penny will conduct the Bird Walk at Lake Arrowhead State Park starting at 8:00am – meet at the dump station

October 7 –Pollinator Bioblitz Statewide starts – make observations on iNaturalist – possibly can do this at the bird walk also

October 9 – Big Sit at Wild Bird Rescue – Dawn to 10 AM

October 14 – “Not So Scary” Nature Night at River Bend Nature Walk – Volunteers are needed to come by 5:30pm – event lasts from 6:00pm to 9:00pm – contact Samantha at River Bend

October 22 – “Owl-o-ween” at Wild Bird Rescue – more info. to come

November 5 – River Bend Nature Center – “Beaver’s Don’t Eat Fish” – Presentation on beavers from 9:30 to 11:30am – trail time to study tracks included – sign-up sheet available

November 2, 3, 4 – (8:00am to 11:00am) Opportunity to volunteer at Kirby Middle School – November 2 (quail research presentation), November 3 – Pre-dissection, November 4 – Quail Dissection – see Lynn Seman for more details

Volunteer Opportunity with Tom Lang to install 4,500 artificial structures for fish habitat – no date set yet

**New Business**

Recertification Awards: Kim Mason and June McKee

1,000 hour Pin – Laura Gillis

Larry mentioned that during the spotted skunk survey, an owl box was found on the ground at Lake Arrowhead State Park. Group discussed where it belongs – no one was sure. If anyone knows, let Larry know!

**Program:**

Tom Lang – TPWD Presentation on fish species .50 hours pf AT

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Filling in for Judy Snyder

October 4, 2016