**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Meeting @ River Bend Nature Center**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President, Terry McKee. 26 members were present along with two guests, Michael Mitchell and Jack Brown. (from Mini-Maker Faire)

Kay introduced the guest speakers who were speaking on behalf of the Texoma Mini Maker Faire to be held in Wichita Falls, TX at the MPEC on October 27-28. The event is offering a free booth for non-profit groups who fill out an application. The guests, Michael Mitchell and Jack Brown explained that the Mini-Maker Faire is like a cross between a state fair and science fair. They gave our group information about the event including how that a large portion of the profit from the event will go back into the community. They said that you can find more information about the event at this site: http://texoma.makerfaire.com/

A request was made to the group for interested volunteers to contact them (business cards were made available). Also, they asked for our group to consider having a booth at the event.

When the speakers finished, Terry began our business meeting at 7:32pm. Terry asked members if everyone reviewed the secretary’s report that was e-mailed out to members. She asked for approval of the minutes for June’s meeting. Warren King made a motion to approve the minutes. Judy Snyder seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Larry read a copy of the Treasurer Report. (attached)

**Committee Reports:**

**Horned Lizard Surveys –** Lynn said that the horned lizard surveys were going well and thanked the members who are participating. She mentioned that the next survey will be Thursday, July 13 at 7:00am at the chat trail, Lake Wichita, then to Lake Arrowhead. Also, there will be a survey on Sunday, July 16, meet at Sutherland’s at 4:45pm. We are trying different times to see if that will affect the observations.

**Nature Tracker –** Terry asked Lynn for information on the new project from Monarch Watch. Lynn said that the Monarch Watch people are asking that participants keep track of the Monarchs that they see in their area for the upcoming dates of August 1 to September 25. If you are interested in participating, visit the guidelines and more details on this website:  <http://monarchwatch.org/blog/2017/03/31/new-monarch-watch-citizen-scientist-project/>

Jane said that she participated in the spring count and mentioned that you must give the GPS coordinates as well as how many Monarchs that you see.

**Old Business:**

**Meeting place for monthly meetings –** Terry reported that we are considering a new meeting place for the monthly meeting. Possible places for our group to meet are Region 9 Education Service Center, Midwestern State University, or stay at River Bend Nature Center.

Discussion took place over this topic, including “Why are we moving our meeting place?”

Some reasons given for moving the meeting place include the following: need more room because our group is growing, we must set up and take down chairs, etc. at current location before and after each meeting, may be hard to hear or see with speakers in current location, meeting at River Bend cost $150 a year, River Bend must pay staff to stay for meeting

Some reasons given for meeting at Region 9 include the following: rooms are available that do not require set up or take down before and after meetings, would not cost anything if we sign the contract stating that we would be willing to volunteer at some science related Region 9 events, do not need to have “air/heat” turned on when we get there

Some reasons given for meeting at MSU include the following: rooms are available that do not require set up or take down before and after meetings, would not cost anything, we hold our new member trainings there now, do not need to have “air/heat” turned on when we get there, doors will be unlocked so won’t need to wait to enter, MSU students might be able to attend meetings

Some reasons given for meeting at River Bend: we are a partner with River Bend, it is a comfortable setting

Terry asked for a show of hands for members who would like to meet at each of the 3 places listed. Several members raised hands for Region 9, several members raised hands for MSU, a few raised hands to stay at River Bend. (note- I did not count hands!)

Terry mentioned that the board will discuss this at the next board meeting.

**June 10 – Tour With a Biologist –** Terry said the event went well and attendees had a good time.

**June 15** – Texoma Regional Math/Science Conference – Kay said that it went well and that she found out about the Mini-Maker Faire at this event. Jane said that she made a connection with another vendor who was very excited about the TMN program. Overall, the event was good for getting our message out to the public.

 **June 24 –** Terry said that the Great Backyard Campout at LASP went well. There was one family and a group of Girl Scouts at the event. The members attending had fun!

**New Business:**

**River Bend Mad Science Camp –** Terry mentioned this volunteer opportunity. Lynn said that anyone who wanted to help extract DNA from strawberries with the children attending the camp is welcome to come help! 9:00 am to noon at River Bend Nature Center

**June 10 –** “Tour With A Biologist” – Hackberry Flats – Terry explained this event that will count as AT. Meet at Atwood’s at 8:00am to carpool. Event will last from 9 to noon.

**Quail Symposium in Abilene on August 16-18** – Larry mentioned this event. He said they would have a grass ID trip on a nearby ranch, discussions, the Texas Quail Index people will be there, and a question and answer panel (which Larry will take part in) and plenty of door prizes.

You can register for the event for $50 at this website: <http://statewidequailsymposium.com/>

**Mini-Maker-Faire –** After listening to presentation earlier, Terry asked the group if the members would like to sign up for a booth. Kay made a motion that we should. Judy Snyder seconded the motion. No one opposed. Kay said she will fill out the application for us to have a booth at the Mini-Maker-Faire on October 28. Terry said that we could come up with something simple for the members “manning” the booth to do at the event so that it wouldn’t be too overwhelming.

**October 13 –** Larry said that the Texas Stream Team training would be on October 13.

**Moth Week will be July 22-30 –** Terry mentioned what we did last year for this event. Debra said members could come to her property to conduct a moth count. Observations for this event will be added to iNaturalist during this time period.

**CampFire –** Lynn mentioned that she met with the Campfire people and that our group may have some volunteer opportunities to come for their after-school programs.

Times Record News Articles – Kim mentioned that our former contact Bridget Knight is no longer working at the Times Record News so our new contact is Lana Sweeten-Shults, as of now.

**Other Business:**

Terry presented recertification pins to Sue and Warren King, Carol Lunsford, herself (Terry McKee), and the following members received special recognition pins.

Maryruth Prose– 250 hours pin (way to go!)

Judy Snyder – 500 hours pin (congratulations!)

Business meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

**Program**

**Speaker –** Horned Lizard Information and Surveys – Lynn Seman

Information to join Horned Lizard Conservation Society can be found at this website: <http://www.hornedlizards.org/how-to-join.html>

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

July 11, 2017