**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the October 3, 2017 Meeting @ Midwestern State University, Room 209**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President, Terry McKee. 25 members were present along with three MSU guests, Copper Breaks State Park Superintendent Edwin Quintero, and Ranger Clepper.

Terry asked if all members have looked over the minutes from last meeting and if anyone had corrections or additions. No comments. Minutes were approved.

Larry went over the treasurer report. (See attached report).September ended with $4,076.96 in the bank.

Terry mentioned that our Lake Wichita brick has been purchased with donations.

Larry is taking names for people who need to pre-order Home and Garden Show tickets.

Terry mentioned that there is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work the booth at the Texoma Mini Maker Faire. We need volunteers for October 28 from 10:00 am to 6:00pm. Set up will be on October 27.

Lynn said that the Horned Lizard Surveys are finished for this season. All data was sent in to Nathan Rains, Wildlife Diversity Biologist from TPWD. Nathan mentioned that he is looking forward to the next spring counts and may come join us!

Terry said that Monarch Tagging has begun. She will post times for events coming up during the next week or two.

Keith Guathier told the group about the Bat Detector and Ipad that was purchased for LASP by the friends group. He got it yesterday, hooked it up, and then tried it out. He said it is very sensitive. He mentioned that L Clepper will be using it next year on the night hike programs on the trail. Larry said it was gift provided by the Friends of LASP. Terry said that the Friends of LASP group meets on the 1st Thursday of each month and all are welcome to attend. Keith expressed his thanks to this group for helping the State Park.

Lynn talked about the Chapter Project Board that will be presented at the Annual meeting coming up in Corpus Christi. Our chapter will be represented with this project which involved taking our knowledge from the TQI project and the experience from the TWA (Texas Wildlife Association) to help with quail dissection at Kirby Middle School. Several members discussed their experiences with the project.

Terry reported that the Sikes Lake Clean up included a lot of clubs and groups from MSU. The event went well and was a lot of fun for everyone!

Terry said that we will have an advanced training opportunity on October 7 at 10:00am. The event will be for the CoCoRahs training which involves reporting rain, snow, sleet, and hail using a specialized gauge. There is no cost for the training, but you may need to purchase one of the special gauges to use at around $38. One of the rain gauges will be given out as a door prize at the meeting.

Terry said that on Sunday, October 8 behind Wild Bird Rescue, there will be a “Big Sit” event to look for birds. It will start at dawn and last till about 10:00am.

Lynn said that the Campfire After School Monarch Program continues Wednesday and Friday of this week. Volunteers are still welcome to come help out! We meet at 3:30pm until 5:00pm at Harrell Park. We will also be doing a Fishing Program on October 10-13 from 4 to 5 each day at Harrell Park. Volunteers are needed to help with stations. We will have knot tying, casting, and safety stations.

Terry said that Not-So-Scary Nature Night at River Bend Nature Center is coming up on October 13 from 6 to 9pm. Contact River Bend Nature Center if you are interested in volunteering.

Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting is coming up on Oct. 20-22.

Lisa Taylor told the group about a volunteer opportunity at Region 9 Education Service Center. On Nov. 1,2,3, the Region 9 GT Seminars will take place from 9:00 am to noon at the center on Loop 11. Lisa is organizing stations from the Texas Wildlife Association on “Texas Critters” and could use people to man the stations. Everything will be set up for the volunteers to run a station.

Lynn Seman mentioned that Kirby Middle School could use some volunteers to help again this year with the quail dissection on Nov. 6 and 7. Contact Lynn if you would like to help!

Terry presented certificates to Lisa Taylor, Kim Mason, and Maryruth Prose for being certified for this year! Congratulations!

Lynn reminded that River Bend Nature Center could always use volunteers for the STEM programs coming up. (Wednesday and Thursday of this week)

Larry mentioned that the Quail Study is over for this season and that Dr. Dale Rollins expressed “thanks again” to our members who helped. He also reported that there was 9.7 inches of rain this week in the rain gauge at the quail site!

Our guests tonight introduced themselves as members of the ESO (Environmental Student Organization) and a writer for the “Wichitan” newspaper from MSU. (<http://thewichitan.com/>)

Keith Gauthier said that on October 21, LASP is having a Hunter Education opportunity for those above 9 yrs. It will last from 8 to 5pm. He also said that they will have helpers for Teens Make a Difference Day on October 28.

Dawn Ross asked about the Owl-o-ween event. Terry said it takes place on Friday/Saturday nights at Coyote Ranch for Wild Bird Rescue up to end of October.

Terry also reminded everyone about the Big Day bird count coming on October 29.

Business meeting ended at 7:32pm

Program- Park Superintendent Edwin Quintero from Copper Breaks State Park

Program ended at approximately 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

October 3, 2017