**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the September 5, 2017 Meeting @ Midwestern State University,**

**Bolin Hall Room 209**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President, Terry McKee. 28 members were present along with four guests, L Clepper from LASP, Alonzo and Jacob from MSU, Katherine Smith for Wild Bird Rescue “Big Day”

Before the business meeting, Terry introduced Katherine Smith to talk about “The Big Day” scheduled for October 29. Katherine said that in the past, there have been about 3 teams for this event, but we need more teams to enter. You would collect pledges to pay for each species of bird that is sighted on this “Big Day”. Teams go out and in 24 hours, record as many species of birds as they can sight. Katherine said that she would like to have volunteers who would work with less experienced groups such as the scouts, etc. If you are interested in volunteering to help other groups, send your name to Katherine. After the event, you will collect the money pledged for each species that is sighted. Terry mentioned that in the past, teams have spotted around 70 to 80 species. Sue said that they would like to get 100 this year! Katherine said that they may be having a dinner afterwards in the evening. If you aren’t as good at identifying birds, you can sign up to be a driver or recorder for the team. The money will go to help Wild Bird Rescue. Also, Katherine mentioned that on Thursday you can donate to Wild Bird Rescue on the Texoma Gives day. This money will help to build a new metal building that is planned to house education birds for public viewing which will help their goal of education of the public.

Terry asked if everyone got a copy of the minutes from the August meeting. Laura Gillis made a motion to approve the minutes and Debra Halter seconded the motion.

Larry reported on the finances. He said that in August, we started with $3,920.30. We had $178.63 in deposits and $100 in payments to leave the balance at $3,933.93 at the end of the month. Larry also asked people to sign up for Home and Garden show tickets. He will then order them and pick them up in November.

**Committee Reports:**

**Mini-Maker Faire -**

Kay reported on our role in the Mini-Maker Faire that will be held on October 27,28. We have applied for a booth. This is more like a showcase to show what you make. If you are interested, you can contact Kay Murphy. We will most likely discuss what we do with Monarchs, our spring training coming up. The event will be from 10:00am to 6:00pm on Saturday, October 28. We will have a sign-up list later.

**Horned Lizard Surveys**

Lynn reported that we have one more month of Horned Lizard Surveys for September. Watch your e-mail for the dates and times.

**Quail Project –**

Larry mentioned that the members of the Quail Project are getting ready to conduct roadside counts for this month. There was some discussion on the “problem” at the first roadside count attempt. (they got stuck)

Members all gave Larry a round of applause for representing our Chapter at the Quail Symposium on the quail panel. He is becoming a quail expert and celebrity!

**Old Business:**

Terry mentioned the monofilament stations. We are planning on having 3 at LASP, 1 at Plum Lake, and 1 at Weeks Park. Plans are being made to build them so that they will not be vandalized. Contact Larry Snyder if you want to help build or install the stations.

**New Business:**

Saturday, September 9 will be our 12th year to host the Sikes Lake Clean Up. Volunteers should arrive by 8:30am. The event will start at 9:00. American Bank and Trust donated $100 for supplies such as bags and gloves. MSU will have people and the cart that will pick up trash around the lake. Larry will be our chef and cook hot dogs to be served at around 10:30am.

Lynn asked for volunteers for the Campfire After-school Program that will be on Sept. 25,26,28 and Oct. 4, and 6. We need volunteers to talk about Monarch Butterflies to the Campfire children. There will be a group of about 25 kids each of the above days (different group each day). You may choose which area that you want to talk about: Monarch Biology, Monarch Migration and Tagging, or Monarch Conservation/Milkweed. Please contact Lynn Seman if you would like to help out.

If you can make it, Debra Halter will be conducting the bird walk at LASP on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 8:00am.

The TMN Annual Meeting will be held at Corpus Christi on October 20-22. Deadline to register is Sept. 29.

Home and Garden Show will be on Feb. 24-25. Terry said that we have a list of speakers signed up such as Ricky Linnex, Amanda Gobeli, Melinda Hickman, and Rebecca Dodge. These will count at AT. We will need volunteers for our booth at this event.

**Other Business:**

Marilyn Meador was presented with her chapter name tag.

Sharon Hyde, Laura Gillis, and James Masuoka were are presented their recertification pins and certificates.

Carl Brown and Carol Lunsford were presented their 250-hour pins and certificates.

L Clepper was recognized for her presence at tonight’s meeting and her hard work in the position of Park Interpreter at LASP.

Larry said that he is planning on getting a Bat detector for LASP to be paid for by the Friends group (LASP). He saw one demonstrated by Dr. Tuttle and felt that it would be a great addition to the park for night hikes, etc. Member asked for the price of the detector which Larry said was about $1,000.

Business meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm

**Program**

**Speaker –** Laura Gillis – Monarchs and Tagging (Program ended at 8:12pm)

Laura presented information on Monarch Butterflies and the tagging program that our chapter has been involved with for several years.

If you are interested in getting tags, (when the tags come in,) Laura will get them signed out to you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

September 5, 2017