**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the November 7, 2017 Meeting @ Midwestern State University, Room 209**

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by President, Terry McKee. 25 members were present along with one visitor.

Terry asked if all members have looked over the minutes from last meeting and if anyone had corrections or additions. Lynn mentioned that the minutes are posted by Tami Davis to our TMN Rolling Plains website each month. No comments. Minutes were approved.

Larry went over the treasurer report. (See attached report). October ended with a total of $4,176.90 in Total Assets. Larry said that Maryruth Prose and Warren King conducted an audit on this year’s books. Maryruth reported that the records were “immaculate” and that no problems were found. She also commented on what a great job that Larry does with keeping the records organized and complete. Way to go, Larry!

Committee Reports -

Terry started with information on the Monarch tagging. She said to turn in your sheets to Laura Gillis when you have them completed. Laura will e-mail you a reminder if she does not get your sheet soon. Terry thanked Laura for inputting all the data and taking care of this for the chapter. Thank you, Laura!

Terry said that they conducted a Big Sit on October 8. There were not a lot of birds observed, but they did see a beaver.

The After-School Campfire program is complete now. Maryruth mentioned that the kids seem to really “get into it” with the Monarch tagging. Lynn said thanks to all those who helped.

The Annual Meeting was attended by Joy Parsons, Jane McGough, Larry and Judy Snyder, and Lynn Seman. It was held in Corpus Christi this year. Jane reported on two programs that she learned more about at the meeting. First, she talked about the Globe at Night program on sky observation. This is regarding the Dark Sky Association. They explained about what light fixtures to use to reduce light pollution. Jane feels that our chapter could get involved with this program. Also, Jane reported on a milkweed program. Our area was selected to run a trial of milkweed planting in the upcoming spring. She will fill us in on more about this in February when the seeds are mailed out.

Larry reported on the Texas Stream Team training that he, Judy, and Megan attended. They are now certified as Texas Water Specialist with 8 hours of AT and 4 hours of VT. We will hear more of this in the future.

Terry asked for a report on the Texas Critters program. Jane McGough and Lynn Seman attended this program organized by Lisa Taylor at Region 9 ESC. This involved area GT students who came to Region 9. Jane and Lynn taught the session on “Quail CSI”. All went well, and the event was great! Thank you, Lisa, for organizing this event and including our group!

Tami Davis, Jane McGough, Carol Lunsford, Leslie Fernandes, and Lynn Seman assisted in the Quail Dissection project at Kirby Middle School recently. Thanks to all who helped! The extra “hands” were greatly appreciated!

This project, (the quail dissection from last year), was our Chapter Project at the Annual Meeting which won third place and a grant of $350.

Terry reported on the Wildflower Planting Project that occurred at Lake Wichita Spillway. Penny Miller said that this was a “demo” plot to test how the wildflowers did and how well accepted they were by the public. If all goes well, we will add on to this project in the future!

Penny talked about the Family Fishing Derby to be help on November 25 at South Weeks Park Pond from 8:30am to around noon. The event is being sponsored by the Southwest Rotary Club who have invited families from the 80th Flying Wing from Shepard Air Force Base. We have been asked to assist with the event. Contact Penny Miller if you are interested in helping.

Terry mentioned Project Feeder Watch is starting on November 11 to April 14. Penny has participated in this event now for 18 years! The Kings have also participated in this event.

Lynn asked for any volunteers who would like to help with a program to be held at City View Elementary on Dec. 4 from 3:30 to 4:30pm. This program will be about Plant Adaptations.

December 2 – We will have a cleanup at the Letter Carrier’s Hall before the Christmas Party. You may come help starting at 9:00am until finished.

December 5 – Our yearly Christmas Party will be at 5310 Southwest Parkway at the Letter Carrier’s Hall. We will have lasagna, salad, and bread catered by Luiji’s. You may bring a dessert also. We will have a fun gift exchange. You may bring a small gift or “re-gift” to share. The cost will be $5 a person. Let Larry know how many and pay in advance.

Terry said that the Audubon Christmas Bird Count will take place on December 16.

Contact Terry to join a walk.

The following members were presented certificates/pins for achieving certification this year: Penny Miller, Jane McGough, Joy Parsons, and Paula Savage. These members received “double certification” this year: Megan Sternadel and Carl Brown. Congratulations to all these members!

Larry mentioned that there is 1.5 months left to finish up certification for this year. He will send out e-mails to members who are close to re-certifying.

Congratulations to Judy Snyder for winning Best of Show at the Annual Meeting with her beautiful cross-stitch of the Bald Eagle!

Thank you for bringing it to tonight’s meeting so all could see the masterpiece, Judy!

Jane mentioned that the Home and Garden committee was very impressed with Terry’s list of speakers for the show coming up in February. Remember, we will be needing volunteers for this event which will be help on Feb. 24-25.

Kay reported that the Mini Maker Faire was a success for the first year of the event. There were a variety of vendors. She mentioned that next year we should have a craft table for kids to make something. There were 7 or 8 people that signed up to get more information about our upcoming spring training. Penny suggested that next year we might consider doing a live demonstration of iNaturalist.

Business meeting ended at 7:44pm

Program- Larry Snyder – Bat Conservation and Importance

AT time - .75 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

November 8, 2017