**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the first meeting of a new year on January 2, 2018 @ Midwestern State University, Room 209**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President, Terry McKee. 22 members were present along with two visitors, Laura Clepper (LASP) and Dr. Tania Homayoun (TPWD – speaker). Terry thanked Dr. Masuoka for unlocking the doors for our meeting.

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 were taken last month by Larry Snyder and sent out to all members. Thank you, Larry!

Larry sent out the Treasurer’s report by e-mail and was not feeling well this evening so could not be present. Get better soon, Larry!

Any dues or Home and Garden ticket payments can be given to Kay Murphy tonight and she will see that Larry gets them. Thanks, Kay!

Committee Reports -

Old Business -

Lynn Seman reported on our program on Plant Adaptations that was presented to the City View After School Science Club on Dec. 7. 4 of our members, Leslie Fernandes, Lisa Taylor, Maryruth Prose, and Lynn set up 8 displays on native plants found within a 20-mile radius of Wichita Falls. The members talked to the 43 students about the plants and then played a game called “The Amazing Adaptation Race”. All the kids seemed to have a great time and hopefully learned something about the plants in our area. Thank you, volunteers!

The Christmas Bird Count was held on December 30. Debra reported that it was cold, windy, blustery, but 76 species were counted including 13 wood ducks and some tundra swans found out between Huntington and Kiel Rd.

Laura “L” Clepper said that there were 7 adults and two children who braved the cold weather to participate in one or both of the First Day Hikes at Lake Arrowhead State Park on January 1. The temperature in the morning was 10 degrees with a wind chill of -4 (Fahrenheit).

Thank you “L” for organizing and sharing nature with the public!

New Business –

Tami Davis has put together a great video to encourage new recruits. She will put it on the website with a link to the application to sign up for training. You can find it on the Rolling Plains Facebook site to preview it. Thank you, Tami!

Terry explained that the Great Backyard Bird Count will be held between **Feb. 16-19,** with our special event taking place on **Sunday, Feb. 18 at 8:00am** behind Wild Bird Rescue.

The Home and Garden Show will be on **February 24 and 25**. Terry said that we are a co-sponsor and will be providing the speakers for this event. The speakers will count as AT. We will need volunteers to help with our booth from 9-6 on Saturday and from 11 to 5 on Sunday. Jane McGough will be needing volunteers for room 5 activities this year. They may set up a stage for two plays for kids to act out. Lynn will get with Jane about more of the details. Home and Garden show is a good place for us to recruit new members for the training class that starts on March 6.

Kim Mason mentioned that anyone can write articles to send in to the paper from our group. Deanna Watson is now our contact person. (Note -If you are interested in writing articles, send your article to Kim Mason, who by the way, does an excellent job of editing and suggesting ideas. Thank you, Kim!)

Recertification for 2017 – Kay Murphy will be receiving her 250-hour pin. Carl Brown will also be receiving his 500-hour pin. These will be awarded in February meeting.

Next meeting will be February 6 at 7:00pm, MSU Bolin Science Hall.

Business Meeting ended at 7:15pm.

Program – Dr. Tania Homayoun from Texas Parks and Wildlife, Nature Trackers

Dr. Homayoun presented a program on Citizen Science.

Program lasted until 8:40pm. (approximately 1.4 hours of AT)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

January 2, 2018