**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the meeting February 6, 2018 @ Midwestern State University, Room 209**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President, Terry McKee. 26 members were present along with three visitors, and our guest presenter, Raddiete Ghion, MSU.

Terry asked if all members have looked over the minutes from last meeting and if anyone had corrections or additions. No response. Minutes stand as written.

Larry sent out the Treasurer’s report by e-mail and went over the amounts. (see attached)

Larry also said he had a couple of extra Home and Garden tickets. See Larry if interested.

Terry mentioned that Dian Hoehne and Ray Hyde will be talking on television to recruit new members. The times are **Feb. 7** – noon channel 6, **Feb. 8** – 6:00am channel 3, **Feb. 12** – noon channel 3. Thanks to these two members for doing this for the chapter!

**Old Business –**

Terry reminded everyone that the Home and Garden Show will be held on **February 24-25.** We need volunteers from 9:00am to 6:00pm on Saturday and 11:00am to 5:00pm on Sunday. There is a sign-up list started on the front row tonight. We are the official sponsor and have set up speakers for the event on Saturday.

10:00am – Melinda Hickman – from Hackberry Flats

11:30am – Ricky Linex

1:00pm – Amanda Gobeli – “Where Have the Quail Gone?”

2:30pm – Ricky Linex – “50 Shades of Green”

4:00pm – Rebecca Dodge – State Parks

These speakers will count as Advanced Training.

**New Business -**

Larry explained a new “milestone award” program for our chapter. Since the state organization only recognizes certain milestones for awards, he said that we could offer recognition pins for the “in between” 500 hours that the state does not recognize.

Larry also presented a possible project that was brought to our chapter. Paula Savage let Larry know about a county lot at 4975 Miriam. The county cannot build structures on this lot because it lies in the floodplain. FEMA is currently putting a report together for the property. Larry said that we might consider a Wildscape, Pollinator Garden, etc. He showed photos of the property and asked for input. There was some discussion and questions raised such as, “what if the drought continues?”, “what are the benefits?”, “is this city property?”. Terry said that we will send out a mass e-mail to find out about who is interested on doing the work involved. Terry said that will be wait and collect thoughts on the property before any decision is made.

Larry said that our presenter for May meeting is looking for a pond found on private land to help with his program. If anyone has a place available, let Joy Parsons know. Norman Mason said he has a pond if we get enough rain!

**Opportunities for Volunteer Hours –**

Great Backyard Bird Count will be held on **Feb. 16-19.** Our chapter will have an organized event on **Feb. 18** starting at 8:00am at the property behind Wild Bird Rescue. Penny Miller said that she will do a count each of these days so if anyone is interested, contact her.

**February 17** - There is a Raptor ID event at Hackberry Flats – If you would like to carpool, meet at Atwood’s at 8:00am. The event starts at 9:00am and lasts until noon.

**February 22** – There is a STEM Career Fair at Burkburnett High School from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Lynn explained that we can do a repeating 20 minutes session on iNaturalist to show the students how we use technology in what we do. See Lynn if you have any questions or want to help.

**March 3** – Kid Fishing Rodeo at Plum Lake from 10:00am to noon. At noon, we will do a lake clean up. Betty Bowles will ask her Nursing students to come help with the cleanup.

**March 10** – Ft. Richardson State Park has asked for our group to help put up bird boxes in their park. The boxes are already made, but need to be hung. The Mason’s said that they will be there at the park on Feb. 17 and could help do this early if needed.

**March 24** – Our chapter is sponsoring a state award at the Texas State Science and Engineering Fair in San Antonio. We have a few members that will be going to be judges. Other members across the state will also be helping with this event this year. See Lynn if you are interested.

**April 23-26** – Campfire Fishing Program to be held at South Weeks Park – more to come later.

Larry said that the MSU Environmental Club meets on Mondays at 5:30pm on the 1st floor of Bolin Science Hall (not sure room number). They have invited us to attend their meetings.

Penny Miller said that there is a bird walk at 8:00am, **Feb. 10**, at Lake Arrowhead State Park.

Terry awarded Sandy Underwood and Cindy Huckabee their initial certification pins and certificates. Congratulations!

Terry awarded Carl Brown his 500-hour pin. Congratulations to Carl!

There will be no March or April meeting, however if you show up on March 6 for the first meeting of spring training, that would be great! It should be held in room 213 of Bolin Science Hall, MSU.

Business meeting ended at 7:36pm.

Program was provided by Raddiete Ghion from MSU – Hydrology

Ended at about 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

February 6, 2018