

Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter

Minutes of the meeting October 2, 2018 @ Midwestern State University, Room 209

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President, Terry McKee. 19 members present.

Terry asked for a review of last meeting minutes. No comments. Minutes were approved.

Larry has e-mailed out the financial statement for the month. Balance - \$4326.09

Committee Reports – Terry informed the group that we have (in the past) had three partners for our organization – River Bend Nature Center, Wild Bird Rescue, and Lake Arrowhead State Park. Recently, we have asked and have added three more partners – Lake Wichita Revitalization, Copper Breaks State Park, and Whiteside Museum of Natural History. Now, we have 6 partners for our organization.

Penny Miller has been on the committee for Wichita Revitalization for the last 5 years. She addressed the group about how they have approved a sub-committee on “ecosystems”. They plan to check on water quality, non-native plants, a watershed plan, and they also plan to apply for grants to improve the area. Penny said that they will be looking for volunteers for these upcoming projects and possibly a sub committee chairperson. She explained that MSU engineering class could possibly be working on some of these projects also. Thanks to Penny for keeping us informed on this committee!

Paula Savage asked if we will be able to go out to the dig site at Whiteside Museum. Lynn said that she will check on this.

Old Business - This year’s annual meeting will be October 26-28 at Georgetown, TX. This is the last week to register. We have several members signed up to go – Larry and Judy Snyder, Maryruth Prose, Kay Murphy, and Lynn Seman (anyone else?)

Sikes Lake Clean-up went very well. Terry reported that there were over 100 volunteers and about 1,000 lbs. of trash collected. There was a very nice photo journal in the newsletter about this event.

Kemp Center Stroll and Roll – the booth in the morning was busy, but things slowed down in the afternoon.

New Business – (Volunteer Opportunities)

October 4 – Monarch Program at NcNiel Jr. High from 7:45 to 8:30am – contact Lynn Seman The previous program at River Bend has been cancelled.

October 4 – Monarch Program at Burkburnett High School 6 to 8:00pm – This is a booth we will have at the Burkburnett STEM Career Fair. Lynn said that anyone is welcome to come help.

October 5-6 – Buffalo Soldier Event at Copper Breaks State Park

October 5-21 – Texas State Pollinator BioBlitz starts

October 6 – Friendship Festival in Burkburnett from noon to 6:00pm. We will have a booth set up. If you would like to come and work at the booth to recruit new members and talk about Monarchs, please e-mail Lynn at lynnseman@gmail.com or call 940-867-3006.

October 7 – Fishing with a Ranger 9:30am – LASP – contact Laura Clepper to help

October 12 – Not so scary Halloween at River Bend Nature Center – Tami mentioned that this will be a place to volunteer from 6 to 9:00pm. You will need to volunteer with a nature related area (not just in a food booth).

October 13 – LASP – Bird Walk- 8:00am (meet at campground dump site)

October 13 – Debra said that Ted Eubanks may be doing a Brown Booby Bird survey – Debra may conduct one after the bird walk at LASP.

October 14 – Big Sit will be held behind Wild Bird Rescue from 8 to 10:00am.

October 14 – Fishing with a Ranger – 9:30am – contact Laura Clepper

October 20 – Pollinator BioBlitz at LASP – meet at dining hall at 8:30am.

October 21 – Walk with Morticia (black vulture) at LASP – 8:30am

October 26 – Create a Mask Hike – 5:30pm LASP

October 27 – Hollow's Eve Critters and Crawlers at Copper Breaks State Park – contact Edwin Quintero – Norman and Kim Mason will be going. There is a safety meeting at 3:00pm and the event is from 4 to 8:00pm.

Laura Gillis mentioned that she has a few pages of Monarch tags left. (they were quickly taken by members!) Laura also mentioned that the tag sheets will need to be returned to her at the November meeting.

Terry said next meeting in November will have Dr. Estes return with a program on Sunflowers. The December meeting will be a Christmas party at the Letter Carrier's Hall.

Terry said that if you would be interested in becoming an officer next year, contact her.

Awards –

Terry presented recertification pins and certificates for 2018 to Betty Bowles, Paula Savage, and Kay Murphy. Congratulations!

Not present to receive pins – Cari King and Lisa Taylor (to be presented at next meeting)

The business meeting ended at around 7:28pm. Next meeting will be on November 6.

Program for this month – Debra Halter – Using the iNaturalist system – Great job, Debra! Thank you for sharing the information.

Program ended at around 8:13pm

AT time - .75 hr

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

October 2, 2018