**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the meeting October 1, 2019@ Midwestern State University, Room 209**

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Kay Murphy.

Debra Halter gave an update on June McKee who is in the hospital. She has been in ICU. Terry is there with her. Not sure when she will be home. We all wish her a speedy recovery!

The minutes were emailed out. No changes or additions, minutes are approved.

Larry gave the finance report.

Larry said there were no quail on the roadside counts this year. Larry asked Amanda for an expanded report for the Waggoner ranch for the last six years. Maybe we can do some covey call counts? Even the ranch that is managing for quail is not doing well. Laura said there were lots of deer! Predators counts were also way down this year.

Horned Lizard Surveys - Lynn reported that this year’s surveys covered 4 private sites and 3 public sites. We saw 16 Texas Horned Lizards between April and September all at Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus. We are done for this year, but will start again next year. If you want to be a member of HLCS (Horned Lizard Conservation Society, contact Lynn).

Old Business – seed collection workshop at Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus – Kay reported on the workshop. Kay said the participants did some field work and did some seed collecting. (use paper bags to let the seeds dry) Kay shared how to collect seeds from gaillardia by stomping on them. Eventually, they will have places for us to stay overnight. She said it is a beautiful place to go!

Sandy said she has been out there for a star party. She said it is a great thing to go do and lasts late into the night. They have RV sites.

Kay said that it is time to nominate officers for next year. We need a treasurer because Larry is stepping down. If you are interested or want to nominate someone, let us know.

Kay brought up menu selections for the Christmas party. Be thinking about suggestions for the meal plan. The date for the party will be December 3 at 7:00pm – Letter Carrier’s Hall?

October 7 – Work day at Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus – we will be moving rocks and planting seeds – if you want to go, Lynn will leave at 6:30am at Atwood’s.

October 11 – Not So Scary Halloween at River Bend Nature Center from 6:00 to 9:00pm – We will set up a moth table with the new moth light and screen. If anyone wants to volunteer for anything else, Samantha at River Bend would be happy to give you an assignment!

October 12 – Lake Arrowhead State Park Bird Walk with Penny Miller at 8:00am

October 12 – Lake Arrowhead State Park Moth Watch as part of the Texas Pollinator BioBlitz with iNaturalist will be at the equestrian area from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

October 18-20 – TMN Annual Meeting in Rockwall, TX – Several members will be attending. If you are going, try to stop at the Science Fair session at 1:00pm on Friday to see the student that we awarded the conservation award to. His project is on White Nose Syndrome in Bats.

October 26 – Copper Breaks State Park 2nd Annual Hallows Eve Critters and Crawlers Event. We will have the moth booth set up for this event from 5 to 9:00pm.

October 30,31, Nov. 1 – Bata Billion at Region 9 – Lisa Taylor said this is an event for 1st through 3rd grade GT students from the area. They will rotate through stations with information from the Texas Wildlife Association kit that she has borrowed.

November 9 – Bird Walk at LASP 8:00am

Jane mentioned that the Texas Pollinator BioBlitz will be a project available on iNaturalist from October 4 through October 21. You can upload observations to this project on the iNaturalist app. or website.

Laura Gillis said that the Monarch tags will need to be turned it at the November meeting. Monarchs should be coming through our area soon. Some members will be a Lake Wichita on Thursday evening.

Larry brought up a motion to approve reimbursement of $36.99 for the stand and screen that Lynn bought to go with the moth light. Kay seconded the motion. Others approved the motion. Thank you!

Lynn mentioned to events that some may be interested in. Ripfest will be in Eastland, TX on October 5 – this is an event about the famous “Old Rip” horny toad held every year. Also, on October 5 at 7:00pm in the evening, Whiteside Museum is having a fundraiser dinner to be held outside by the dimetrodon statue. Today is the deadline to reserve a spot.

Carol Lunsford recertified for 2019 and Susan Lindsay achieved her initial certification for membership. Congratulations!

Next meeting on November 5 – speaker – Blair Ramon

Business meeting ended at 7:30pm

Program – Sharing Plants – members

A big thanks to the following members who did a fantastic job sharing about plants - Kay Murphy, Jane McGough, Marilyn Meador, Betty Bowles, Kim Mason, Debra Halter, Carol Lunsford, Susan Lindsay, Laura Gillis, Sandy Underwood, Norman Mason, Larry Snyder, Carl Brown, and James Masuoka.

Attendance for tonight’s meeting was 18 members.

Program ended at 8:42pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

October 1, 2019