**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the meeting November 5, 2019@ Midwestern State University, Room 209**

Program – Blair Ramon presented her research on Bees. Very informative and interesting presentation! Program started at 7:00pm and lasted until 7:50pm.

Business meeting was called to order by President Terry McKee at 7:51pm. Terry asked the group if anyone read the minutes from the last meeting and if there were any corrections or additions. No response, minutes will remain as written.

Terry asked Larry about the financial report. Larry said that Maryruth Prose and Warren King conducted an audit today of the finances. Warren King said that they found normal acceptable accounting techniques and the records were accurate. He said that Larry Snyder should be commended for his work as treasurer. Thank you, Larry, for all you do to keep our books! (group applause)

Larry attended the President’s meeting at the Annual Meeting in Rockwall. He said that the next Annual Meeting will be held in Houston at the West Side Omni. He said there will be tons of things to do there. This year’s meeting had about 700 people in attendance. He mentioned that the TMN license plate is coming. They are waiting on approval for the Art Work. He said that the state office is wanting each chapter to have an Ambassador for the Endowment. Larry then explained how we get our money for TMN. Our hours are valued at $23 each and the Federal government uses the hours turned in as a number to match in funding collectively. Larry also reminded members about the VMS changes (stressed in an email). He also said that they will no longer be having the store set up as in the past, but have an “order on demand” system. They will show an item such as a t-shirt, and then take pre-orders during a specific time period if you want to order it. Larry also mentioned that we have a new transfer member, Bob Adams, from Montague County. Welcome to Bob and his wife, Rhonda! Next year’s pin for certification will be the American Bumble Bee. He reminded members that our Christmas Party will be $5 a person. The Home and Garden tickets are for sale for $6 each. They are a large size and have coupons on them for various items. There is a $1,000 grand prize drawing also. Larry said the speaker will be Benjamin Vogt – author – title “Ethics of New Gardening”.

Larry reported that he and Judy did a covey call count and did not hear any quail. Judy said that other animals are missing out at the quail site also. Larry said that the predator count was down this year, as well as the wild hog count.

Terry mentioned that there are some AT opportunities posted outside of the door of the classroom. (A session about kangaroo rats on November 6, at 5:30pm in room 215 Bolin Science Hall and a session on migration timing of three different flycatchers on November 13, room 215 Bolin Science Hall) Dr. Masuoka clarified that these are student presented sessions from graduate students and is held in a small room so he would check on whether or not we are invited to attend.

Terry asked if anyone came to the BioBlitz at Lake Arrowhead State Park on October 12. Lynn said that there were 20 people who attended the event. Lynn said that we set up the moth light at River Bend Nature Center on Friday, October 11, and then at LASP on October 12. We also set up the moth light and had a booth at Copper Breaks State Park Event. Norman and Kim Mason helped with this event. Thank you, Norman and Kim! The moth light has been a useful asset since we purchased it for our chapter.

Lynn said that we are placing rocks around the pond at Comanche Springs Campus. Susan Lindsay and Lynn helped do this. We have not finished yet, so soon we will be asking for helpers to go back and continue this project. Susan has had shoulder surgery and is recovering. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Lynn reported that Chris at the Whiteside Museum is working now on putting back together the fossilized bones of “Darlene”. “Darlene” the dimetrodon is possibly the largest dimetrodon that has been found in the world! Her jacket was too large to move, so she has been disassembled and is being reassembled in the lab at the museum. Come see it if you get a chance!

Lynn reported that the Water Programs at River Bend Nature Center are going very well. Leslie Cusick-Fernandes at River Bend wrote and received a grant through Texas Parks and Wildlife for $10,000. Robert Mauk and L Clepper have both been to this program to talk to students about careers in TPWD. Carl reported on the activities taking place during the water program. If you want to help, there will be programs on Thursday and Friday of this week. Thank you to Robert, L, and Carl for helping with these important programs on water for students!

Lisa Taylor reported on the Bats a Billion program held at Region 9. She used a kit from the Texas Wildlife Association on Bats. Jane McGough helped with all three days of the event October 30,31, and Nov. 1. Lisa and Jane agreed that Halloween is a difficult day to have a special program especially when the kids come in costumes. Lisa said that there were about 175 kids that attended the program. Great work, Lisa! Thanks to Jane for her awesome help!

Terry said to not forget about the Christmas Party on December 3. It will most likely be at the Letter Carrier’s Hall at 5310 Southwest Parkway. Members can bring a dessert and a “Bad Santa” gift. It will start at 6:00pm. Larry said we will have a clean up before the event and will let members know.

There is a Bird Walk at LASP on November 9 at 8:00am. Project Feeder Watch will start also on November 9. <https://feederwatch.org/>

There will be a First Day Hike on January 1 on the Dragonfly Trail at 2:00pm. There is another hike also at 4:00pm that day on a different trail.

Terry mentioned that one of our members, Laura Gillis, received a top award at the Mystery Art Event. Her journal won 1st place in “symbolism”. Larry mentioned that he attended the meeting at the Kemp Center for the Arts and they also mentioned what a great job Laura did with her Nature Journaling classes. She might be doing this again next year. Way to go, Laura!

Terry opened the floor for nominations for next year’s officers. Larry motioned that we except the list that was sent out to the members. The list is as follows:

President – Kay Murphy

Vice-President – Lisa Taylor

Treasurer – Larry Snyder

Secretary – Lynn Seman

Webmaster – Debra Halter

Newsletter – Paula Savage

Terry said these people have offered to hold these positions next year. Paula will continue with Newsletter. (Members applauded) - Paula does a great job with the newsletter. Thanks, Paula!

Laura Gillis seconded the motion. Terry asked for all who are in favor of these nominees to say “aye”. Most all members responded. Terry asked for all who are not in favor to respond. Larry Snyder said “no” (just joking 😊).

Terry said the list was approved. Terry said she would be there to assist Kay as President as needed. Larry asked if Terry was going to be Activities Director. Terry said that in the past, when Jim was President, she was Activities Director. Members said that Terry should be thanked for all she had done. (applause) Thank you, Terry!

Laura Gillis said that she has been working on a chapter logo and will reveal two designs at the Christmas Party. Thanks again, Laura!

Terry recognized the following who have recertified for 2019:

Laura Gillis, Norman Mason, Kay Murphy, Marilyn Meador, Betty Bowles

Megan Sternadel (not present) Congratulations to you all!

Also, Betty Bowles receive the Texas Water Specialist Certificate and Pin!

There were 26 members signed in on the sign in sheet.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

November 5, 2019