**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the meeting January 7, 2020@ Midwestern State University, Room 209**

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

The members were directed to enjoy a slideshow of the 2019 chapter achievements that was prepared by Larry Snyder. Great job to the chapter for 2019 and Larry for preparing this presentation for the meeting! (note: if you missed the meeting and want to see the slideshow, Larry can send it out)

**Secretary Report** – Lynn said she emailed out the minutes from last month’s meeting (Christmas Party). Kay said there seemed to be no corrections and motioned to approve the minutes. Laura Gillis seconded the motion.

**Treasurer Report** – Larry sent out the report to members also. He said that we have $5,081.59 in the account and he will also be depositing $61 more. He said that if you haven’t paid your dues, please do so soon. He mentioned that he still has Home and Garden tickets at $6 each to sell.

**Committee Reports** –

Quail Index – Larry did not have anything new to report at this time. Laura Gillis mentioned that she saw two quail recently. 😊

Horned Lizard Survey – Lynn said that the lizards are under ground at this time. (brumation)

Monthly Hike – Lynn said that we have formed a committee to work on a new project for hosting public monthly nature hikes at area locations. Several members are on the committee. The first hike will

be on January 25 at 2:00pm at Lucy Park (meet at Lucyland parking lot). Sandy Underwood will

lead the hike that will focus on “Seeds and Trees”. Our next hike will be on February 29 and will

focus on geology. If there are any members who can share their expertise on this area, any input

is welcome.

**Old Business –**

Kay presented Megan Sternadel with her re-certification pin and certificate for 2019. Congratulations!

Sandy Underwood has a nice bag to give away to whoever wanted it.

Kay said that the trip to Hackberry Flats on Saturday was great. They saw 2,132 birds and 32 bird species. These trips are becoming very popular. Sign up early! Next, one is Feb. 8.

First Hike at Dragonfly Trail at Lake Arrowhead State Park had a great turn out of over 60.

**New Business –**

Laura Gillis has created two logos for our chapter to choose from. Kay called for a vote by hand on which logo would be chosen. Sue King tallied the votes at 17 for Meadowlark and 8 for Quail. However, both were amazing and we hope that we can use the quail logo for our quail research group. Laura was given an appreciation gift for her hard work. Thank you, Laura! Debra mentioned that if we get t-shirts not to get white. Kay said we will have a committee to work on t-shirts.

Terry McKee reported on the new class schedule. She reported that the training will be on Thursdays only this year with Saturday field trips. This will allow us to stretch out the training for those who work to attend.

Megan asked if members can be allowed to come to the new training class to act as mentors or to get to know the new trainees better so that they will be more likely to stay with the group. Larry said that there are rules regarding the mentoring. Larry also said that we will continue to have our chapter meetings during the training class.

Lynn said that Robert Mauk needs volunteers to tie cinder blocks to trees that will be thrown in Lake Arrowhead to make fish habitat. He would set a date depending on who could help. (Thursday or Monday). One person could help on Thursday, and about three on Monday depending on the time. Lynn will let Robert know.

Lynn said that the ARC has asked if we could do a nature themed program on February 27 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. We had two people last year that went and it was really fun! If anyone is interested in helping out, let Lynn know. This is working with young people who have intellectual disabilities.

**List of VT and AT Opportunities** –

**VT** -**January 11** - Bird Walk at LASP 8:00am

**AT -January 14** - One Water Conference and

Review of SB1 and SB2 for Texas Waters Specialist Certification - Webinar - need to register here:   <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7101826270900218380>

6:30pm to 7:30pm

**AT - January 18** - 10:00am  Winter Woody Plant ID - Palo Pinto Mountain State Park (not open to public yet)  10:00am Must sign up in advance (limited number) Let me know if you need more information.  -- contact person [James.Shipp@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:James.Shipp@tpwd.texas.gov).

**VT - January 25** - Lucy Park 2:00pm - Monthly Nature Hike led by Sandy Underwood - Trees and Seeds - meet at Lucyland parking lot in Lucy Park

more info. at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monthly-tmn-nature-hike-january-tickets-86281988751>

**AT - January 28** - (need to buy tickets unless MSU staff or student)

DR. EDITH WIDDER at MSU Akin Auditorium 7:00pm

Find more information here:<https://calendar.msutexas.edu/event/artist-lecture-series-dr-edith-widder/>

She will speak about finding the Giant Squid and is an expert on bioluminescence.

**AT - January 30**- Birds in Art Lecture at Wichita Falls Museum of Art - Reception 5:30pm to 7:30pm Lecture at 6:00pm  by Dr. Brown Marsden

Find more information here:  <https://calendar.msutexas.edu/event/birds-in-art-opening-reception/>

This will be different that the last one presented.

Lynn said that there will be an opportunity to help prevent erosion at the Beaver Pond at Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus coming up. We are looking for plants, possibly Little Bluestem, to plant on a hill by the pond to prevent erosion. Larry asked if we could look into the “mat” of bluestem that would easy to install and does very well. Carol said that she would look into this for us. She has a catalog from the Native American Seed Company that Larry mentioned.

Extra FYI – Laura Gillis will be doing some “bird doodling” at the Museum of Art at MSU on Jan. 18. She will give us the details when she has them.

Friends of Lake Arrowhead State Park will meet on January 16 at 7:00pm. (not volunteer time)

Business meeting adjourned at 7:36pm

Program was provided by the members who brought resources on nature related themes.

The members who shared were Tami Davis, Larry Snyder, Sandy Underwood, Kim Mason, Carl Brown, Jane McGough, Laura Gillis, Kay Murphy, Megan Sternadel, James Masuoka, Carol Lunsford, and Lynn Seman.

If anyone would like an email with the books discussed, please let Lynn know and she will send it to you!

Program ended at 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

January 7, 2020