

September Meeting for Rolling Plains Chapter TMN – September 1, 2020 (Zoom)

Members present (virtually - 23): Carol Lunsford, Kay Murphy, Linda Price, Debra Halter, Terry McKee, June McKee, Allen Brajer, Aaron Holland, Jim Masuoka, Laura Gilis, Marilyn Meador, Jane McGough, Betty Bowles, Sharon and Ray Hyde, Penny Miller, Kim and Norman Mason, Carl Brown, Larry and Judy Snyder, Lynn Seman and Guest speaker, Ricky Linex.

Kay opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, and introduced, Ricky Linex who presented a wonderful program on Cochineal and the history of this interesting critter. (session was recorded and will be put in the Rolling Plains Chapter TMN Youtube)

Program lasted until 8:25pm.

Business Meeting:

Kay asked for any corrections to the minutes or the treasurer's report. No corrections were mentioned. Laura Gillis said in chat that they look good to her. Minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

Kay said that there will be Horned Lizard Surverys during September.

September 4: 8:00am (Lake Wichita Chat trail and Wichita Valley Rail Trail), September 11, 8:00am (Lake Arrowhead State Park), and September 21, 7:00am (Copper Breaks State Park). Please contact Lynn if you need more information. Lynn reported that Debra located some scat at the last survey.

Lynn reported that if you want to help on Thursdays at Whiteside Museum of Natural History, let her know and she will get permission to have extra volunteers there. (note- I will be going this Thursday from 10:00am to 2:00pm)

Lynn reported that she got to tag along with Christena at Comanche Springs and looked over the site. Our pollinator garden is mowed down (some grasses there), but we haven't been able to maintain it with the shutdown. The hill next to the Beaver Pond has been taken over by cockleburs, snow on the mountain, and love grass. Hopefully, we will be able to still do some work with the hill project. If you are going to the event on September 19, we can look it over. They still have 2 spots open for the Nature Journaling workshop. Contact Christena to sign up. (email – christenas@3rf.org)

Larry reported on the Quail Index project. He said everything is complete except for the roadside counts. Quail Queens are planning on going out on September 5 (evening). Hopefully it won't be too muddy.

Larry also said that he and Judy delivered 1 monofilament station to Copper Breaks State Park, 3 to Lake Arrowhead State Park, and 2 to the city of Wichita Falls. (which will probably be put at Plum Lake and maybe Lake Wichita floating dock). We will need to monitor them on a regular

basis. Thanks, Larry! These are for collecting old fishing line to keep them out of the environment.

Laura Gillis reported that she has Monarch tags that are ready to go with 10 on a sheet. Email Laura Gillis with your name and address and she will get them to you. If we have a group tagging event, she will get extras to the group. We ordered 200 tags through the chapter this year. (email – gillis.laura5319@gmail.com)

Kay said that Miles for Monarchs is on again for Sept. 5-12th. You can participate in this for VT.

Lynn said that City Nature Challenge will have Wichita Falls, TX on it next year. This will be in April 30 to May 3 to make observations on iNaturalist. Debra suggested writing an article for the paper to advertise to the city. There is an organizational meeting on Sept. 29. Lynn will attend and then share more information about it later. We will most likely include the counties in our Rolling Plains region for the map.

Lynn talked to Leslie at River Bend Nature Center. They are not too sure about schools coming for field trips, but might be going out to the schools and may need volunteers.

Don't forget to subscribe to the Rolling Plains Chapter TMN youtube channel to see the videos from Alex Nelson's grass ID program. Ricky Linex's program will also be put there. We may make some other videos, such as a video on tagging Monarchs. If you have any ideas for videos, let us know!

Kay talked about the Virtual Volunteer Fair for Sept. 2. If the projects are in our region, you can sign up for them. Some of the projects might count for our region.

Carl Brown reported that Wild Bird Rescue has helped more than 2,000 birds so far this year. The number of birds lately has been decreasing. They had 80 Mississippi Kites and are now down to about 18. They have been releasing them back into the wild as well as a black vulture that came to them only 6 inches tall and now is back out in the wild.

Be looking for a trash pickup at our Adopted Site by LASP coming up, possibly September 26?

Larry mentioned that the Great Texas Birding Classis has been moved to October. Larry, Judy, Warren, Sue, and Penny will have a team in the competition.

Dr. James Masuoka will present our program next month on PCR, (Polymerase Chain Reaction) (what it is, and it can be used for)

Larry said that you can count 1.5 hrs AT for Chapter Meeting for tonight's program on cochineal by Ricky Linex and 1 hr. for CB: Chapter meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at around 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Seman

Rolling Plains Chapter TMN Secretary

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