**TMN December Chapter Meeting – December 1, 2020**

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

22 members present – Kay Murphy, Larry and Judy Snyder, Terry McKee, Debra Halter, Penny Miller, Joy Parsons, Carol Lunsford, Paula Savage, Jane McGough, Carl Brown, Linda Price, James Masuoka, Kim and Norman Mason, Allen Brejer, Carol Lunsford, Alex Nelson, Sharon and Ray Hyde, Laura Gillis, and Lynn Seman.

Kay asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the minutes that Lynn sent out by email. No additions or corrections. Larry sent out financial report that was accepted. Ray gave a report on the audit of the financial report. He said that he and Lynn conducted an audit on the books. The books balanced perfectly. Great job, Larry, on an excellent year of book keeping!

The new slate of officers was presented to the group by Kay Murphy.

Laura Gillis – President

Vice-President – Vice-President, webmaster, and co-VMS

Secretary – Sandy Underwood

Treasurer – Lynn Seman, and co-VMS

Larry Snyder motioned that the slate of officers be approved. Penny seconded the motion. Since there were no additions or changes, the officers were approved for 2021 as stated.

Laura Gillis reported on the Monarch tagging this year.

We tagged 123 out of 200 tags this year. 69 female, 54 male (77 unused tags)

Laura has turned in the data and said that next year, we will have a training for the tagging.

Larry gave a report on the VMS for this year.

59 due paying members (slight increase)

17 members started the training class this year, and 14 are staying with us.

Alex Nelson and Linda Price have already volunteered many hours this year even though they have not been able to complete the training due to postponement of the class.

The chapter has reported 2,434 hours this year despite the pandemic. (down slightly from last year)

610 hours of advance training reported this year.

21 members recertified this year, 11 members who have achieved 250-hour milestone, 7 members who have achieved 500-hour milestone, 5 members with 1,000-hour milestone, 2 members with 2,500-hour milestone, and 1 at the 4,000-hour milestone.

Historical hours – 42,319 hours VT and 6,549 hours AT

Larry thanked the group for entering hours in a timely fashion.

Also, thank YOU Larry for being our Admin and VMS Czar for 9 years! We are so fortunate to have you in our group!

Kay had Judy present a plaque to Larry for his hard work and dedication that says “presented to Larry Snyder for your years of dedicated service as VMS Czar for Rolling Plains Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist 2020.”

Debra Halter gave information on the Christmas Bird Count. On December 19 from sunrise to sunset, members will be counting birds in the count circle. If you want to participate, contact Debra Halter. The count area must be in the 50-mile circle. You keep track of your hours and miles. She shared a short video on the program. She has participated in this count since 1972!

Penny talked about the Adopt-a-Loop Project that she is starting up. She has times set up for the initial sites to visit. Adopt-a-Loop visits:

Lake Arrowhead: Following the bird walk on the 12th

Lucy Park: 16 Dec, 10 AM

City of Seymour Park: 18 Dec, Leaving WF 8 AM

Ft Richardson/Lost Creek Reservoir Trailway, 11 Dec. Leaving WF 7 AM

Copper Breaks: 26 Dec. Leaving WF 8 AM

Those interested can call me at 940-867-9761  Penny Miller

Carl Brown reported that the bird numbers at Wild Bird Rescue are lower now and it is a lot quieter lately.

Laura Gillis shared a book called Nature Explorer’s Sketchbook by Jean Mackay that she said would be a great gift for kids!

Lynn Seman shared about the project at Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus that some members had attended lately. They want to make this place a “living laboratory” for research projects. More great things going on at Comanche Springs to come! Next opportunity to volunteer on December 19. (Pre-Burn Evaluation)

Next, we watched a 16-minute summary video with some photos of some to this year’s events.

Thank you to Paula Savage for doing our newsletter this year and to Debra Halter for being our webmaster! Great work!

Debra said that she put the new forms on the website for anyone who has a project to be approved.

Bird Walk with Penny on December 12 at 8:00am. Followed by Adopt-a Loop.

We will reschedule the trash pick up that was going to be this Saturday.

If anyone wants to watch the recorded version of tonight’s meeting, let Lynn know and she will send it out to you.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00pm. Hope everyone has a safe and happy new year!

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Seman

Secretary

December 1, 2020