

Rolling Plains Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist – June Monthly Meeting – June 1, 2021

Members present on Zoom: Joy Parsons, Lynn Seman, Laura Gillis, Ray and Sharon Hyde, Linda Price, Marilyn Meador, Jane McGough, Lisa Taylor, Allen Brajer, Dana Cobb, Norman and Kim Mason, Larry and Judy Snyder, Paula Savage, Glenna Pickens, Carl Brown, James Masuoka, Alex Nelson, Warren and Sue King, Becky Trammell, DeAnna Bullock, Judy Maness, Judy Silver, Aaron Holland, Deborah Bagley, Dian Hoehne, Debra Halter, Terry McKee, and June McKee. Guest was Heidi Kryger

Laura Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She introduced our guest speaker, Heidi Kryger, TPWD, who presented a wonderful program on Animal Tracking. Time of program – 1.75 hrs. (report as AT: Chapter Meeting)

At 8:45pm, Laura started the business part of the meeting.

Laura mentioned that the minutes and financial report were sent out with the email for the meeting tonight.

Laura recognized members Carl Brown – 2,500 hours, Kay Murphy – 500 hours, and Paula Savage for recertification.

Old Business: Laura announced that the City Nature Challenge went well for our first attempt. She said we were 8th in Texas with over 2,000 observations. She said Larry had done some math to figure out how we compared with Waco and overall, we had more observations per person.

New Business: Laura said the training class is now able to do some in person field trips. These are open to all trainees and members (if members hadn't attended before, they can be counted at AT)

The Wildflower Walk at Comanche Springs was a good one!

The next field trip will be electrofishing with Robert Mauk – meet at boat ramp at 8:00am – trainees have priority for boat rides. Please RSVP by June 3.

June 12th will be an archaeology field trip to Ft. Richardson State Park – RSVP by June 10.

June 19th will be Bird Identification with Penny Miller, Debra Halter, and Terry McKee at LASP- RSVP by June 17.

Lynn said to be sure to RSVP so that the state parks will know how many plan to attend.

Partner Updates:

Carl Brown said that Wild Bird Rescue is very busy.

Website Updates:

Laura said that Debra has been making updates and improvements to the Chapter website, including uploading several of the Chapter Scrapbooks. Be sure to check out all her hard work

on the site! Thank you, Debra! Debra also mentioned that she has added nature guides for insects and fish of Lake Arrowhead State Park to the website.

State Program Updates:

Laura conducted a poll of the attendees at the meeting to whether or not they would like to start meeting in person in July. The poll results were 81% said yes and 19% no.

The state meeting will be at the DFW Metro area and registration will start on August 1. It will be a hybrid event – more details and cost to come later.

New Opportunities:

LASP bird Walk with Penny on June 12 – 8:00am

Region 9 STEM Conference on June 9 and 10 – You can sign up to help with the booth.

Be sure to continue to look for events and opportunities on our website or in emails to the group.

There was a question about whether or not trainees had to attend the field trips. Trainees will need to attend two according to Larry Snyder (via chat). Terry said that they need to get 40 hours to complete the training.

Laura said that the Quail Queens (for the quail project) are looking for a couple more people to help with the surveys. (Deborah Bagley emailed a response and Dana Cobb responded in the chat with a yes.)

Laura asked for anyone who would like to help with organizing the Christmas Party this year. She has an idea to have a photo/art show contest at the event. You will get an email from Laura about this soon.

Next meeting will be on July 6, 7:00pm, and will be held on campus of Midwestern State University, Bolin Science Hall, Room 209. Gabe King will talk about Moths for Moth Month.

Laura mentioned that the Saturday hike might be an evening one this month for a mothing event.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm. Meeting time was 25 minutes to be reported at 0.5 hrs on CB: Administrative Work (Chapter Meeting)

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Seman (filling in for secretary, Sandy Underwood)

June 1, 2021