

November Minutes Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS

Location: Northeast State at Elizabethton and Zoom

Date November 7, 2023

Attendance: 20 people attended the meeting in person and 5 people attended via Zoom

Call to order: President Dave Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Minutes: Kim Stroud read the minutes from the October meeting. Joe McGuiness made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Roy Knispel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Vern Maddux presented the Treasurer's Report. The current balance is \$5,480.16. Vern reported that he paid \$150 to Bays Mountain City Park in memory of John Hay. He also reported that the club received a \$1,000 donation from the estate of John Hay. Finally, Vern presented the Annual Financial Report, which showed that the chapter had a net gain of \$597.40 for the last fiscal year. Jean Potter made a motion to accept the Financial Report and Rick Knight seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. **Fall Count:** Rick Knight presented an addition to the report from October. After all parties reported their data, there were a total of 121 species plus one *Empidonax* species reported on the Fall Count, which is slightly below the 30-year average of 125 species.
2. **Fall TOS State Meeting:** Dave Gardner, Kim Stroud, and Rob Armistead attended the meeting. Dave reported that two bills were discussed by the Conservation Committee and he encouraged members to contact their representatives in support of the legislation. The bills are the Federal Safe Buildings Act and Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act. Kim also noted that TOS may form a committee to review and update their constitution.
3. **October Walks at Sycamore Shoals:** Bryan Stevens reported that the walks were fun. He also said they had numerous Common Mergansers on the first two walks.
4. **Winter Trip:** Joe McGuiness discussed the itinerary for the January trip to Myrtle Beach. People interested in going on the trip need to meet after the meeting to discuss hotels. We need a firm commitment by the Christmas party in order to make hotel reservations.
5. **Christmas Party:** Dave Gardner announced that the Christmas party will be held at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 1 at Tipton Haynes State Historic Stie.

Club members usually bring appetizers and desserts. Dave passed around a sign-up sheet to avoid the Five Veggie Tray Debacle of 2019.

New Business:

1. **Dues:** Due to the net gain in the Treasury during the last fiscal year, Dave Gardner suggested that we keep dues at the same rates as last year. Family memberships will be \$40, single memberships will be \$30, associate and life memberships will be \$12, college and regular student memberships will be \$10. Brookie Potter made a motion to set dues at these levels and the motion was seconded by Jackie Knight. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **November Field Trip:** Joe McGuinness announced that the club will have a field trip on Saturday, November 25. We will meet at the Weir Dam at 8:30 am. In addition to the Weir Dam, we will also bird Musick's Campground and other water bird areas.
3. **Upcoming Meetings:** Dave Gardner announced that Northeast State at Elizabethton will be closed on the date of the January meeting and may also be closed on the date of the December meeting. He plans to host both meetings over Zoom, if necessary.

Recent Sightings: There was a large fallout on Halloween, which included numerous ducks at Wilbur Lake and three scoter species in Sullivan County.

Presentation: Bryan Stevens presented a program entitled "Butterflies and Other Things with Wings, but not Feathers".

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Kim Stroud