

**April Minutes**  
**Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS**

**Location:** Northeast State at Elizabethton and Zoom

**Date:** April 2, 2024

**Attendance:** 22 people attended 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 March meeting. Roy Knispel made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Debi Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Vern Maddux reported that the current balance is \$4,782.16. Dues were paid to TOS. The annual fee for the PO Box and the Banquet venue were also paid this month.

**Old Business:**

1. **Sullivan County Field Trip:** On Saturday, March 16, Joe McGuiness led a field trip to waterfowl areas in Sullivan County. Brookie Potter reported that the field trip was very productive. Highlights included nesting Red-tailed Hawks, nesting Great Horned Owls with babies, two Virginia Rails, a Sora Rail, Fish Crows, and Black-crowned Night-herons.
2. **Banquet:** Dave Gardner reported that Marty Silver agreed to be the banquet speaker on April 19. Dave polled the members about their preference for a topic from a list of suggestions by Marty Silver. The members selected nature photography. Valley Beautiful Catering will provide two meats, two sides and desert for \$14.50 per plate. The menu that the club selected includes: chicken parmigiana, eggplant parmigiana, a large salad, broccoli with cheese and a cobbler. We have the room at Tipton Haynes from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. We decided to eat at 7:00 pm to allow it to get dark enough for the presentation. Tipton Haynes will charge \$150.00 for the cost of a room. Eric Middlemas made a motion to charge \$20 per person for the banquet and Roy seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Dave Gardner said that he would need a headcount to give to the caterers by April 13.
3. **Nightjar Surveys:** The Nightjar Survey periods for this year are May 17 – 20, and June 18 – 20.
4. **Southern Appalachians Highlands Conservancy Bird Walks:** SAHC will be conducting two bird walks at Hampton Creek Cove.
  - a. The first walk will be scheduled for May 3 at 9:00 am. Pre-registration is required.
  - b. The second walk is during the June Jamboree on June 15.
5. **Nominating Committee:** Jean Potter said that the nominating committee will present a slate of officers and directors at the May meeting.

- 6. Fall State Meeting:** Dave Gardner reported that TOS president, Michael Collins, agreed to the Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter hosting the Fall State Meeting in 2025. He asked for volunteers to form a Planning Committee. Kim Stroud, Jean Potter and Diane Draper volunteered.

#### **New Business:**

- 1. April Field Trips:** Joe McGuinness does not have any Saturdays available in April. He could lead a field trip on Wednesday April 24, if there was enough interest. Dave Gardner polled the group, which showed little interest in a mid-week field trip. Debi Campbell said that our members were welcome on any of the trips hosted by the Bristol Bird Club. There are also walks available at the Roan Mountain Naturalist Rally.
- 2. Spring Roan Mountain Naturalist Rally:** The Roan Mountain Naturalist Rally will be held Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28. Joe McGuinness will lead a walk at 6:30 am on Saturday, a beginning bird walk at 8:30 am on Saturday and another bird walk at 9:00 on Sunday. Debi Campbell will lead a walk at 8:30 am on Saturday.
- 3. Spring TOS Sate Meeting:** The meeting is the same weekend as the Naturalist Rally and is in Knoxville.
- 4. Charger for Club Radios:** Joe McGuinness requested a multi-USB port charging station be purchased for the club radios because they did not come with plugs for wall outlets. Dave Gardner said that a charger could be purchased for less than \$30. Brookie Potter made a motion to purchase the charger and Judy Sawyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Spring Count:** The 5 County Spring Count will be held Saturday, May 4. Dave Gardner discussed a list of areas and party leaders. Rick Knight said that Tom McNeil would be available to cover his normal area and that compilation would be by email.
- 6. May Meeting:** The May meeting will be held after Final Exam Week at Northeast. Therefore, Northeast Sate at Elizabethton will be closed at night. Dave Gardner discussed the need to find a new meeting location that is more reliable. Brown Hall at ETSU is not available because it is being renovated. Debi Campbell suggested the Summit Building in Johnson City. The Langston Center was also suggested, but it charges \$35 per hour.

#### **Recent Sightings:**

- 1.** Debi Campbell reported numerous warbler species on Dry Creek Road in Johnson City.
- 2.** Judy Sawyer reported a Purple Finch and Brown Thrashers in her yard.
- 3.** Joe McGuinness, Kim Stroud and Dave Gardner had a Louisiana Waterthrush in Unicoi County.
- 4.** The Potters reported Cliff Swallows and Chimney Swifts.

**Presentation:** Vern Maddux gave a brief plug for an informative video entitled "The Nature of Oaks". Then, he presented a program entitled "Some Birds We Saw in Brazil and Argentina".

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:** Kim Stroud