

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

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

**Date:** May 6, 2025

**Attendance:** 14 people attended in person and 5 people attended via Zoom

**Call to order:** President Dave Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

**Minutes:** Kim Stroud read the minutes from the April meeting. Lois Cox made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Rob Armistead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** The current balance is \$5,084.80.

**Old Business:**

1. **Spring Naturalists Rally:** Joe McGuiness reported on the three walks he conducted at the Spring Naturalist Rally; however, he did not have data for the walk led by David Holly. Six people attended the early walk. The weather was cloudy and drizzly. Therefore, the group only had 24 species, which included Louisiana Waterthrush and several other warblers. The beginner's walk had four people. They also found 24 species, including Blue-grey Gnatcatchers, Black-and-white Warblers, and Scarlett Tanagers. Conditions were better for the walk on Sunday, which had 16 people. They found 34 species, including six to eight Pine Siskins.
2. **Unaka Mountain Field Trip:** On Saturday May 10, we will host a field trip in conjunction with Bristol to Unaka Mountain. We will meet at the Forest Service Office in Unicoi slightly before 8:00 am.
3. **Nightjar Surveys:** We will conduct the Milligan and Cherokee Nightjar Surveys on Wednesday, May 7. We will meet at the Food City on South Roan St. at 8:00 pm. If there is too much cloud cover on Wednesday, we will try again on Thursday.
4. **Spring Count:** The Spring Count was held on May 3. Rick Knight received reports from all parties, but did not have time to compile them yet. So far, the results look good. Tom McNeil had 25 species of warblers and Roy Knispel had Cerulean Warblers. Fred Alsop suggested going back to in person compilations.
5. **Picnic:** Dave Gardner reported that Winged Deer Park is booked. Rick Knight suggested Sycamore Shoals.
6. **Nominating Committee:** Chris Soto said that all of the current officers have agreed to retain their offices. Dave Gardner asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made. Rick Knight made a motion to elect the slate of officers listed below. Roy Knispel seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
  - a. President – Dave Gardner

- b. Vice President of Programs – Bryan Stevens
- c. Vice President of Activities – Joe McGuiness
- d. Secretary – Kim Stroud
- e. Treasurer – Vern Maddux
- f. State Directors – Rick Knight, Roy Knispel, and Kim Stroud

**New Business:**

1. **Calendars:** Pictures for the calendars need to be submitted by the picnic.
2. **June Meeting:** The June meeting will be held over Zoom because Northeast State will be closed that night.
3. **Carter and Unicoi County Summer Counts:** The Summer Counts will be held June 7 and 14.
4. **August Planning Meeting:** Dave Gardner suggested holding the planning meeting at the Black Olive again.
5. **Beginning Birding Presentations:**
  - a. **Senior Center** – Chris Soto reported that she and Joe McGuiness will do a presentation on May 14 at 1:00 pm at the Senior Center.
  - b. **Philanthropic Educational Organization** – Dave Gardner reported that he received a request for a presentation for 7:00 pm on April 6, 2026 from Mary Gardner. Kim Stroud volunteered to do a presentation on bird feeding.
6. **Regional Vice President:** Dave Gardner reported that Chris Welsh, the new TOS president, requested volunteers to fill the vacant Regional Vice President office.

**Recent Sightings:**

1. Mike Poe reported Great Egrets.

**Presentation:** Chris Soto presented a program entitled "Touring Southern Patagonia".

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:** Kim Stroud