

Minutes: Rio Brazos Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
Thursday, April 7, 2016
First Baptist Church, Glen Rose, TX

After having a good meal of covered dish delicacies, our program was begun.

Program: "Nature Flourishing at the Margins" was presented by Jim West of the Indian Trails Master naturalists. He is a former graphic designer living in the Ferris area. Jim is a steward of the John Bunker Sands Wetland near Seagoville. He said that he has always been interested in the natural world and hopes that his photographs will, in some way, help to preserve as much of the wild as we have left.

Guests: Wren and Scott Friedenber, current training class members, were welcomed.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance = \$9513.26. Ending Balance = \$9719.15

Linda and Bill Diehnelt will be moving away from the area, and Linda has resigned her position as treasurer. Former treasurer Jim Crocker has volunteered to act as interim treasurer until elections take place in December. The Executive Board accepted Linda's resignation and approved the naming of Jim Crocker as RBMN Treasurer. It instructs First Financial Bank to make the appropriate changes to the checking account by removing Linda Diehnelt and adding Jim Crocker to the signature card.

Thanks were expressed to Wendy and Dave Moore and Scott Taylor for their efforts at the ANC bird blind and surrounding mowing and trimming.

Training: Classes are going well. Nathan Rance's entomology presentation was coming up.

Outreach: Report was given by Billy Teels. April bird walks was very good with 35 species seen, 4 of which were migratory. He expects that three more walks will be big. Asked if the Golden Cheek Warbler walks would be coming up, but he said there would not be any because the birds are best observed in March. At that time they are easier to see and they are more placid because of their early arrival.

Friends of Cleburne State Park: Report was given by Cathy & Jim Crocker. Multiple activities are taking place at CSP in April. Among them are Friends group meeting (4/21); Trail Maintenance and Dutch Oven lunch (4/16); Bioblitz - an organized naming of species in a given segment utilizing "*I Naturalist*" - (4/30) Dawn Yanez will be offering Archery training on the same day. Swoon to the Moon in June (6/18). Kayak training (7/5)

Home Schoolers: Report was given by Jake Balmuth. Daver Moore gave a class on orienteering, and nobody got lost. Dr. Teels will be teach a class on Animal Habitat on April 8.

Tarleton Outdoor Event: Dayna reported the event was taking place 4/16 from 9 AM – 3 PM and volunteers are needed to help Kenneth Nally in the RBMN booth. The event is held at City Park, Stephenville.

Permaculture Workday: Report was given by Seth Hamby. He said the workday was excellent and all the goals for the day were accomplished. In addition some Bluebird boxes were placed by Eagle Scouts.

Education Committee: Report was given by Teresa Taylor for Gail Bradshaw, who is recovering from a throat injury. She's improving, but not allowed to talk much and certainly not yell at the group. April is Field Trip month, it seems.

4/12 from 8:15 – Noon 3rd Grade from Acton Elementary School.

5 learning stations. Volunteers are always needed. Topic habitat in your own backyard. They will eat sack lunches after their program. Volunteers will go eat Mexican food!

4/22 from 9:00 – 11:15 2nd Grade from Manbrino Elementary School

2 games, hike and bird blind. Topic: Earth Day Volunteers needed

4/27 and 4/28 from 8:30 – Noon 1st Grade from Acton Elementary School

7 classes over 2 days, 4 on one day, 3 on the other. Bird blind and pollinators as the main topic. Lots of volunteers are needed.

Dayna offered that she had been contacted by many from all the schools we have worked with, and they are all very grateful for the MN's involvement and efforts we make to enrich the children's education. In particular teachers at Mambrino are interested in having an annual star party event. On very short notice Gary Hind, Jake Balmuth and Dave Hubbard attended their first star party to present, but cloudy skies did not cooperate, and Karaoke was chosen instead. Alternative star related activities will be available next time. Maybe karaoke songs with space themes: "Fly Me to the Moon," "Hey There, You with the Stars in Your Eyes," "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" ...?

Burleson Family Camp: Robert reported in MaryAnn's absence that April 23 is the date for the camp in conjunction with the City Park Dept at Bailey Lake. Mike Baldaras and Robert will put on a "Night Sounds" presentation. Robert said possible prairie dog observations would take place. Jim and Cathy Crocker volunteered to help, and Robert said the Boy Scouts were going to put on a program as well.

ANC Nature Run: Karen Langdon reporting. The event is 4/23. Participation is limited to 500. Volunteers are to report at 8:30 for the event to begin at 10:00.

Earth Day Celebration in partnership with Prairie Rose Native Plant Society: Bonnie Colgin reported the Earth Day Celebration will be at Heritage Park in Glen Rose on 4/23. RBMN will have a booth. Volunteers are needed to man the booth. Contact Bonnie to help.

Fossil Rim: Tessa Chenoa Owenby reporting. Again no sightings in the Shrike Survey. Survey will continue M-W-F next week. C₂S₂ wants to expand it. They are impressed with our methodology and want to expand it to other areas. Tessa also noted that C₂S₂ had previously asked to use Chris Inbody's design and will now use it nationally. You go, Chris!

Fossil Rim has been asked by the Fort Worth Zoo to assess and possibly create a Monarch habitat. Milkweed transects need to be undertaken.

Camp El Tesoro: Tanner Rhone reporting. "April is crazy!" and he needs volunteers. El Tesoro will host 7 Acton elementary grades. Subjects of their field trips will be on the website calendar. Bring a sack lunch if you are able to volunteer any days.

Archery and kayak certification can be obtained through El Tesoro in the last week of May for no charge. Contact Tanner Rhone to get find out specific training days and to sign up.

Get Out-Play Out-Stay Out: Cindy Ross, our new transfer from elm Fork chapter, has started a new Facebook page. A website is the goal which will reflect a comprehensive collection of information about outdoor activities related to nature and the environment. Members with experience in website development who can contribute in structure and content are solicited to help. More info can be found on the website.

Milkweed Survey: Robert Theimer presented with a program by Gregg Lee relating to the use of *I Naturalist* to record milkweed distribution in relation to Monarch migrations. Gregg flagged several samples on the First Baptist grounds and had excellent pictures to show various settings where milkweed may be spotted. He dug and potted 2 examples, which were taken to be transplanted.

Volunteer Services: Dave Moore reporting an ANC workday was eminent. He will e-mail the date and areas to be worked on.

Membership Committee: Wanda Riley reports that the VMS was going well and thanks to all, she has more tree time!

Website: Chris Inbody reported that the calendar is now up and functional on the website. He thanked all the leads for taking part in its use and said this has taken a load off his duties.

Announcements: Be sure to check the calendar on the website for ever increasing volunteer activities and the details of such events.

Robert said he has more Purple Martin conservation flyers available

Acton Farmers market will start May 14

Dave Moore told of the Outdoor Education project on which the MN's advised at Acton Middle School, and said they will need assistance on their next phase: tree I d.

Adjournment: Dayna concluded the meeting by thanking First Baptist church of Glen rose for allowing us to use their facilities. She also reminded us to keep Nancy and Robert Theimer in our thoughts and prayers as she undergoes surgery.

Upcoming Events: Please go to the website to check for all the upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Taylor
Secretary, Rio Brazos Master Naturalists