

Rio Brazos Master Naturalists Chapter Meeting

April 6, 2017

Cleburne State Park

Dinner: Began at 6:00 PM

Guests: Introduction and welcome

Program: Caitlyn Pyle, Recycling and Waste Conversion Coordinator for Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, discussed a new initiative at FRWC – Recycling Waste Conversion Project. Caitlyn shared that as a lifetime Girl Scout, she always felt the need to make the world a better place. She graduated from Tarleton State University prior to becoming an education intern at FRWC. As her intern project, Caitlyn surveyed the FRWC recycling project and determined that it was not effective. Her project lasted from August-November, 2017 and included counting the amounts of aluminum cans and plastic bottles in trash. She then analyzed the amount of bottles and cans that were placed in recycle bins. Caitlyn presented a graph to illustrate her findings. In addition, the composting program was evaluated.

Caitlyn then established goals to improve recycling and composting at FRWC for 2017. At this time, a recycling compactor has been placed on site at FRWC. Additional bins have been placed throughout the facility. Employees are allowed to recycle their personal trash for a nominal fee. Up-cycling is also being practiced to conserve waste. The results of this new initiative have indicated that more and varied recyclables have been accumulated. In addition, the goals of conservation awareness, sustainability, and environmental stewardship have been established.

Business Meeting

- March, 2017 minutes approved.
- **Treasurer's report** – submitted by Henry Bogusch. Beginning balance \$10,335 Deposits \$3095 Expenses \$62 Ending balance \$13,178
- Next training is scheduled for April 15. Valerie Tabor and Nathan Rains will be teaching entomology and Mammalogy.
- **Outreach** – Billie Teels reporting. The golden-cheek warbler walk will occur on April 8 at DVSP. Meet at the trailhead. The monthly bird walk was held at ANC on April 1. Newsletter deadline is mid-May.
- **Cleburne State Park** – Jim Crocker reporting. The nature table at FeatherFest was well received at the event. Some upcoming activities include a **Moon Event** in May, **Take a Walk with a Homeless Dog** on June 3, and a kayak event in July. May 17-18 there will be school groups at CSP and volunteers are requested.
- **Home School Program** – Madison McGlaherty reporting. A hike will be held at CSP on April 7. The group will go to Mineral Wells on May 5.

- **Burleson** – Dagmar Higgins reporting. **Burleson Family Campout** will be on April 22. At this time, more work and signage is needed on trails.
- **FRWC** – Tessa Ownbey reporting. Badgefest will occur on April 9. FRWC will host the C2S2 (Conservation Centers for Species Survival) national conference on April 11, 12, and 13.
- Valerie Tabor announced an upcoming field trip to ANC on April 28 from 8AM-12PM. Volunteers are needed.
- **Nature Run** – ANC April 22
- Jake Balmuth is starting a young birders group at ANC on April 22 from 7-10 AM.
- **FeatherFest** - Dave Moore reporting. Dave thanked the chapter for their help in making the FeatherFest a success. Visitors numbered 148. The winner of the photo contest was a three way tie : Wendy Moore, Jake Balmuth, and Chris Inbody.
- **ANC workday** – Dave Moore reporting. Alan Sarver (Unimin) donated 3 trees to be used for benches and a bird feeder. The butterfly garden looks great. Shelving improvements have been added to the farm house.
- **MLMP** – There will be a MLMP training on April 21 at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center’s administration building. On April 22, there will be a chapter MLMP booth at DVSP.
- The Langdon’s will host an ag day at their ranch on April 21.
- **Wingding** – May 13 at DVSP.
- **Education Committee** – Wendy Moore reporting. The bird educational trunk has been completed. The committee will demonstrate to the chapter how to use a trunk for education purposes at the November meeting .
- Reminder was given to check the chapter website for updates.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sara Paulsen, secretary RBMN