

# **Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting**

**Aug 1, 2013 – Somervell Training Center**

**Program:** Kathy Miller presented “Texas Law and Your Master Naturalist Activities”.

**Recognition of Guests:** Robert Theimer introduced Mark Clark, the new environmental manager from Comanche Peak and Gail Bradshaw, a new student.

**A moment of silence:** Dave Moore asked for a moment of silence to remember Robert Felzke.

**Old Business:** The minutes from June were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The treasurer’s report was read and accepted.

**Service Pins:** Service pins from last year were given to Gregg and Carol Lee.

**Notice:** The State annual meeting will be held on Oct. 25th, 26th and 27th at the TBar Ranch and Conference Center. Many members plan to attend. The state office has two new interns and one is seeking information on programs for Jr. Naturalists. It was mentioned that Pat Kreiner has information and Maryann Matthews will let her know.

**Training Committee Report:** Robert Theimer

- Three sessions of the new class have been completed. Nathan Rains presented the class on mammals and also has a program on Horned Lizards which Robert will try and line up for a program.
- Tessa Ownbey said that Carrie’s class on bumblebees was well-attended, very informative training that also talked about native pollinators.

**Outreach Committee Report:** Billy Teels was not present

- There will be the first Saturday bird walk at ANC on Aug. 3 at 6:30am.
- On Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a star party at ANC at 7:30pm. The cloudy/rain date is Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be more telescopes this year. Gary Hinds passed out brochures for everyone to put up or pass out. He said to emphasize for people to plan on both dates since the event is so weather dependent. Dr. Tuttle, Physics Professor at Weatherford College and Dr. Hibbs, Astronomy Professor at Tarleton will be there. There will be a 32 inch robotic telescope and if wifi is available, the image will be projected on a screen, live at the pavilion.

- Fossil Rim: there are a lot of volunteer opportunities available besides leading tours. There are four trails which need trail work, there are classes at Wolf Ridge, there are Boy and Girl Scout badges, land projects, a new Monarch Way Station, the home school enrichment needs articles to be written, there is the Leopold Education Workshop and the Native Plant Society is doing a workshop on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. The contact is Tessa Ownbey.
- On Sun. Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting to discuss the improvements at ANC which will involve more educational materials on the trails, new kiosks in the butterfly garden and the parking lot, a touch table in the house, educational signs, and the making of a smaller, more portable photo display to use when the big display is not warranted.

**Volunteer Committee Report:** Ken Coy

- There were two new submissions for projects. The first is the Texas Outdoor Women's Project and Valerie is going to write for the Native Plant Society.
- The Fun Run on June 8 went fine.
- There will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Comanche Peak Trail Clean Up Day on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. Chainsaws will be needed. Maryann has details.

**Membership:** Wanda Riley

- All new people are on the list and new people need to sign in.

**Newsletter:** Billy Teels not in attendance.

**Website:** Jim Crocker. Jim suggested that on the front page of the website he could put a notice that if any group was looking for speakers they could check with the Speakers Bureau section on the website.

The next meeting will be at the Opal Durant Community Room in the library at Acton on Sept. 5, 2013.